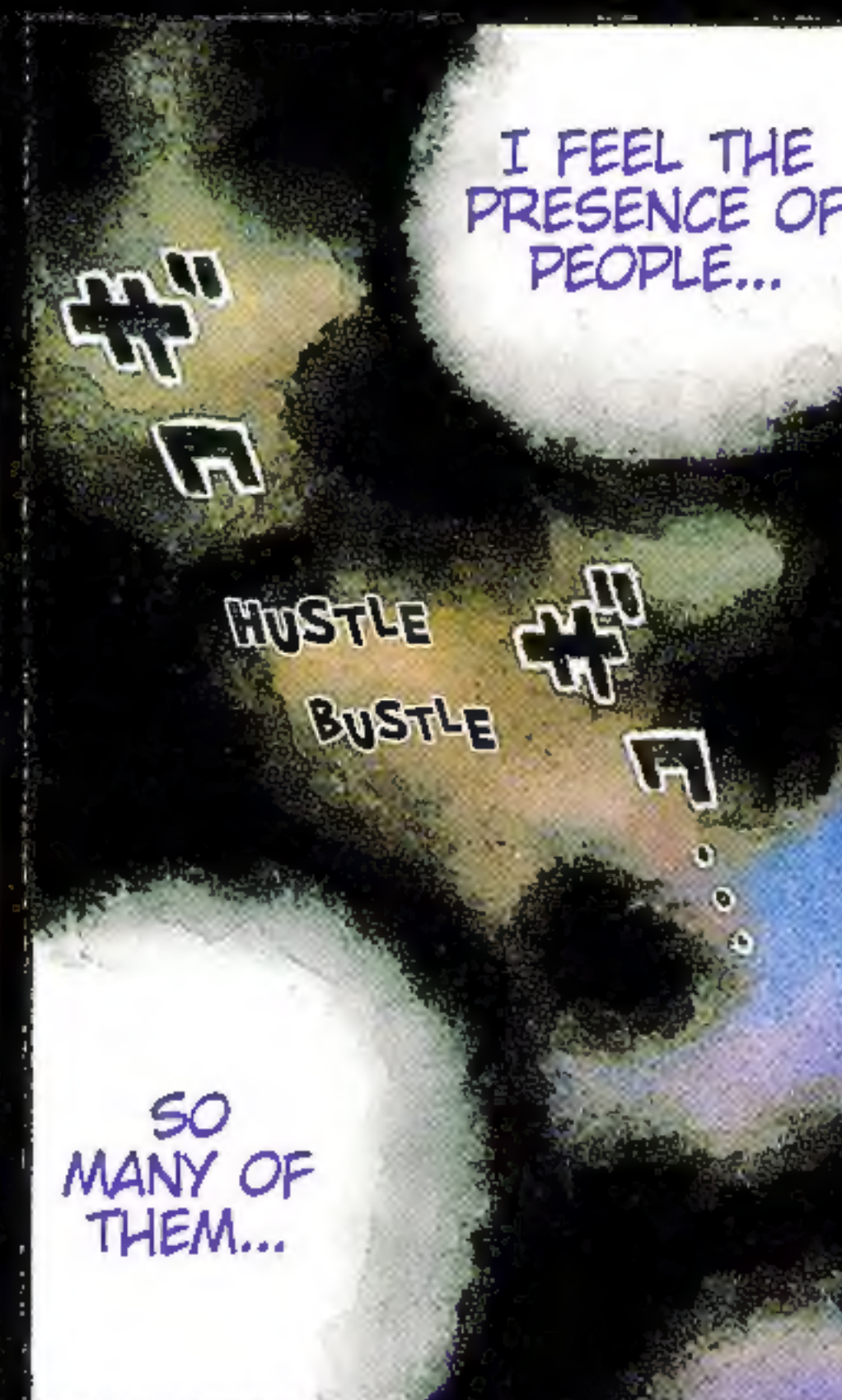


# BELIEF CHAPTER PART 2: SUZUYA HOUSE





# BELIEF CHAPTER PART 2: SUZUYA HOUSE

THIS RIGHT  
HERE IS THE  
WORLD FAMOUS  
YOSHIWARA.





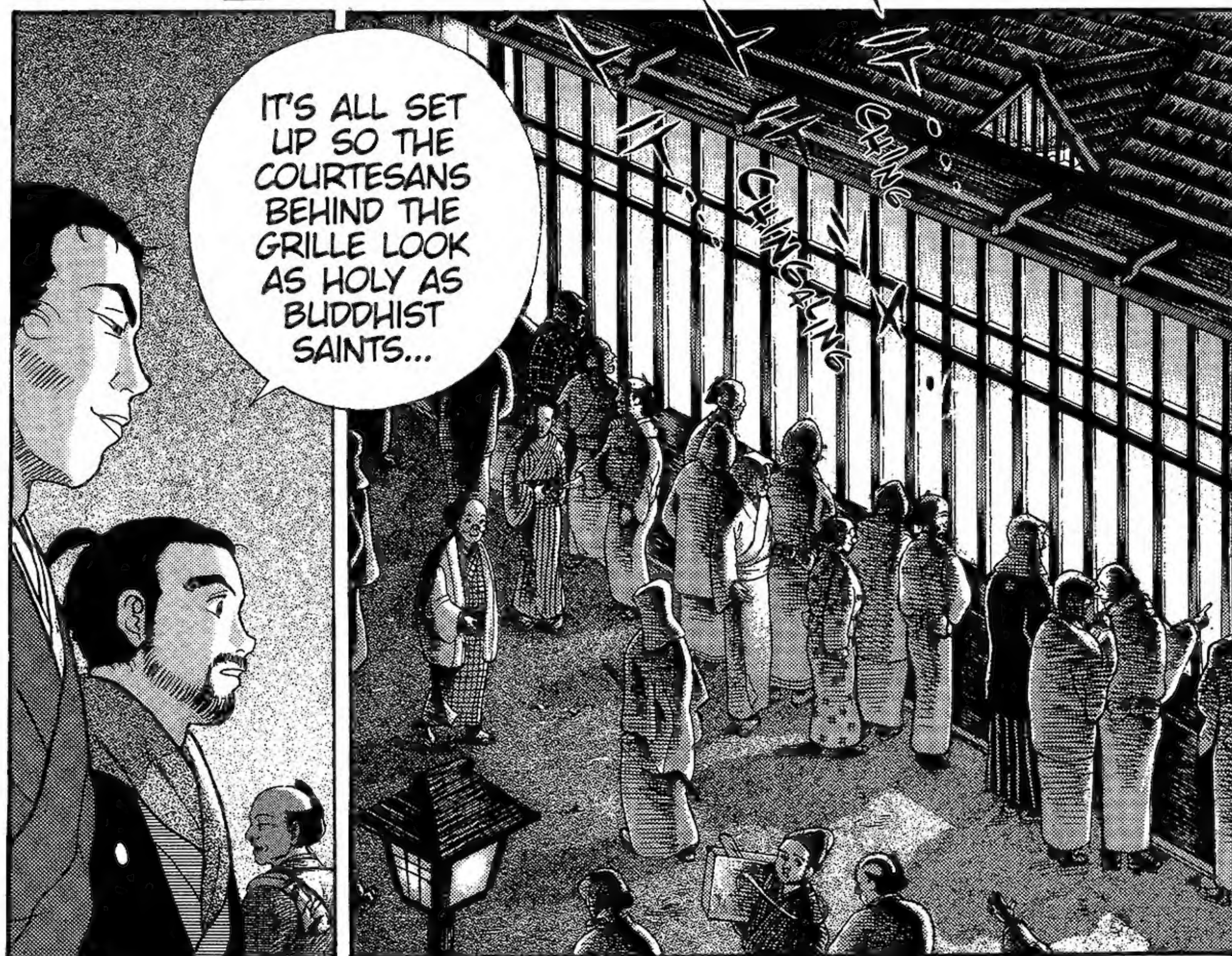


TRULY, THIS  
PLACE IS LIKE  
A BRIGHT MOON  
KINGDOM THAT'S  
FLOATIN' AMIDST  
THE DARKNESS...



BUT IF YA  
MAKE YER WAY  
HERE WITH YER  
EYES CLOSED,  
IT LOOKS EVEN  
BRIGHT'R AS IF  
IT'S HEAVEN,  
DON'T YA  
THINK?









IT'D BE BORIN' TO DO THE SAME... WHAT'D'YA SAY? I WAS THINKIN' 'BOUT GOIN' INTO ONE OF THESE...

I FEEL THE 'XACT SAME WAY... BLIT MOST FOLKS WALKIN' 'ROUND ARE WINDOW-SHOPPERS 'ERE TO ENJOY THE VIEW...

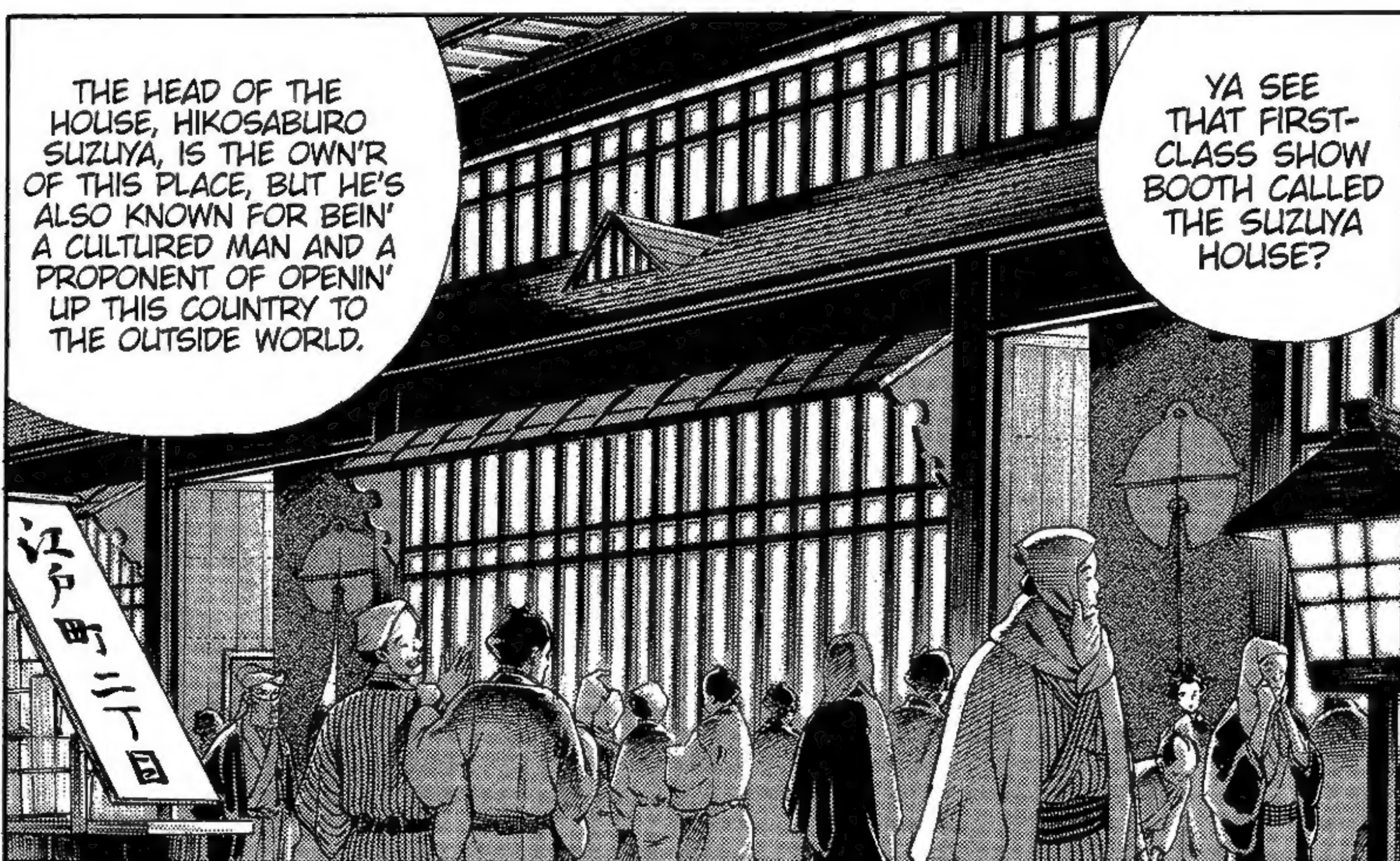


I AIN'T GOT NO MONEY EITH'R.



I HAVE NO INTENTION OF DOING THAT... AND I DON'T HAVE MONEY WITH ME ANYWAY!

EH?! NO, NO, I'LL BE FINE JUST LOOKING!



THE HEAD OF THE HOUSE, HIKOSABURO SUZUYA, IS THE OWN'R OF THIS PLACE, BUT HE'S ALSO KNOWN FOR BEIN' A CULTURED MAN AND A PROPONENT OF OPENIN' UP THIS COUNTRY TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD.

YA SEE THAT FIRST-CLASS SHOW BOOTH CALLED THE SUZUYA HOUSE?





\*THE HIGHER RANK COURTESANS.



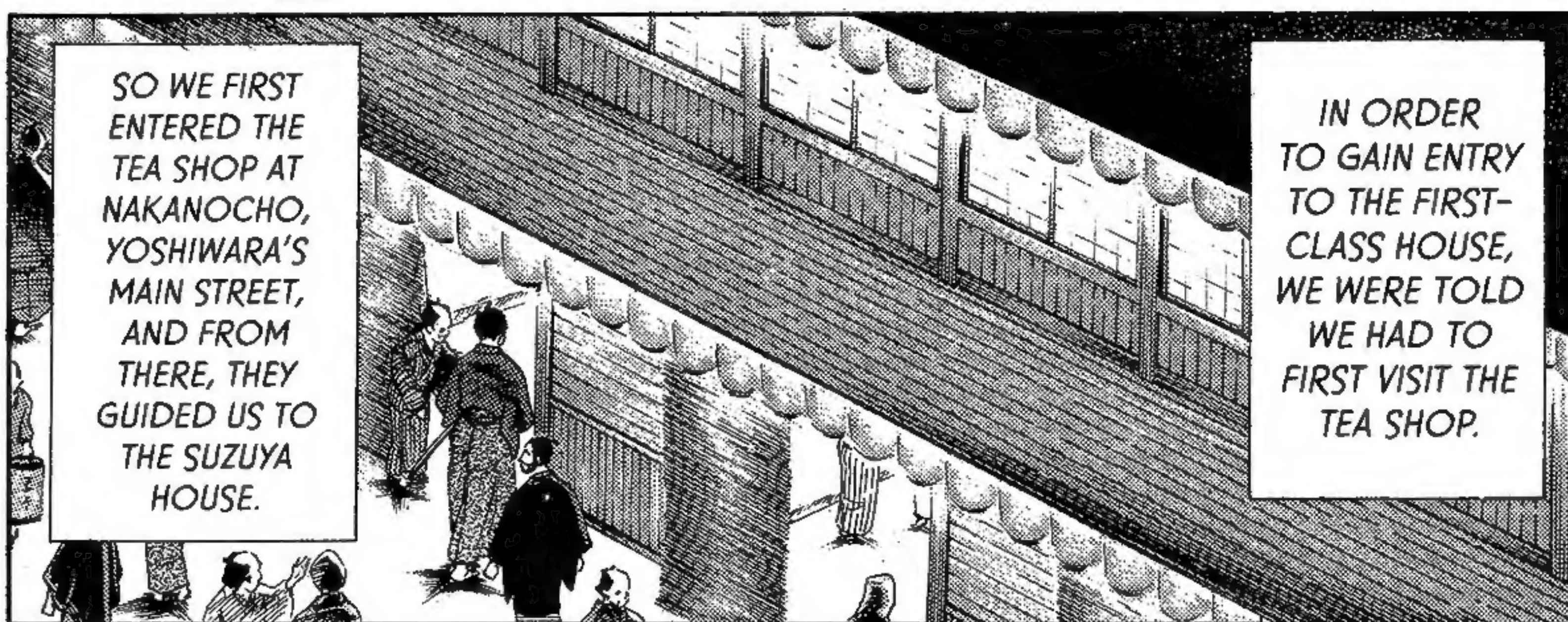
9 \*THE HIGHEST RANK COURTESANS AMONG ALL OIRAN COURTESANS. "YOBIDASHI" LITERALLY MEANS "TO CALL/INVITE OUT," AND THIS RANK OF COURTESANS WERE NAMED SUCH DUE TO HOW THEY COULD ONLY BE CALLED OUT WITH A PRIVATE APPOINTMENT.



LET'S **POWER!**  
ON THROUGH!







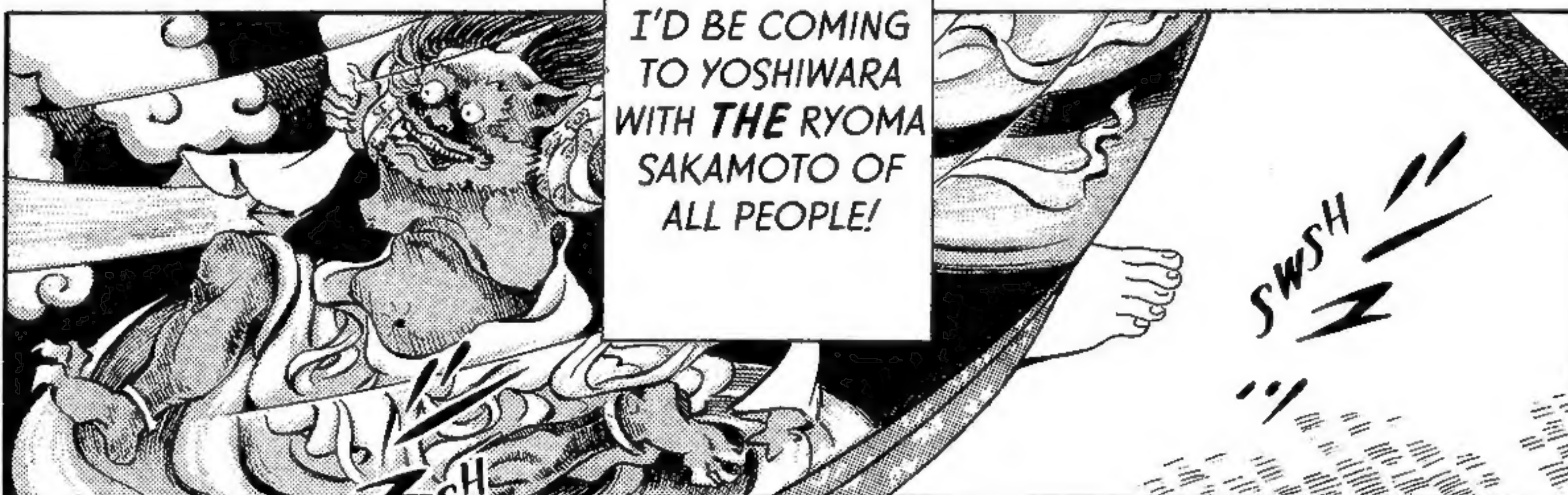
SO WE FIRST ENTERED THE TEA SHOP AT NAKANOCHO, YOSHIWARA'S MAIN STREET, AND FROM THERE, THEY GUIDED US TO THE SUZUYA HOUSE.

IN ORDER TO GAIN ENTRY TO THE FIRST-CLASS HOUSE, WE WERE TOLD WE HAD TO FIRST VISIT THE TEA SHOP.



FIRST TIME CUSTOMER!

IT WAS SO STRANGE HOW THIS HAPPENED, BUT HONESTLY, I COULDN'T HELP BUT BE CURIOUS.



TO THINK THAT I'D BE COMING TO YOSHIWARA WITH **THE** RYOMA SAKAMOTO OF ALL PEOPLE!

SWSH





**NOKAZE,**  
YOBIDASHI OIRAN  
COURTESAN OF  
HIKOSABURO  
SUZUYA







\*LOW CLASS SAMURAI FROM THE COUNTRYSIDE TENDED TO WEAR KIMONO WITH GREEN ASAGI COTTON FOR ITS LINING. CALLING SUCH SAMURAI "GREEN CLOTHS" IN RESPONSE WAS A COMMON TERM OF INSULT IN YOSHIWARA.

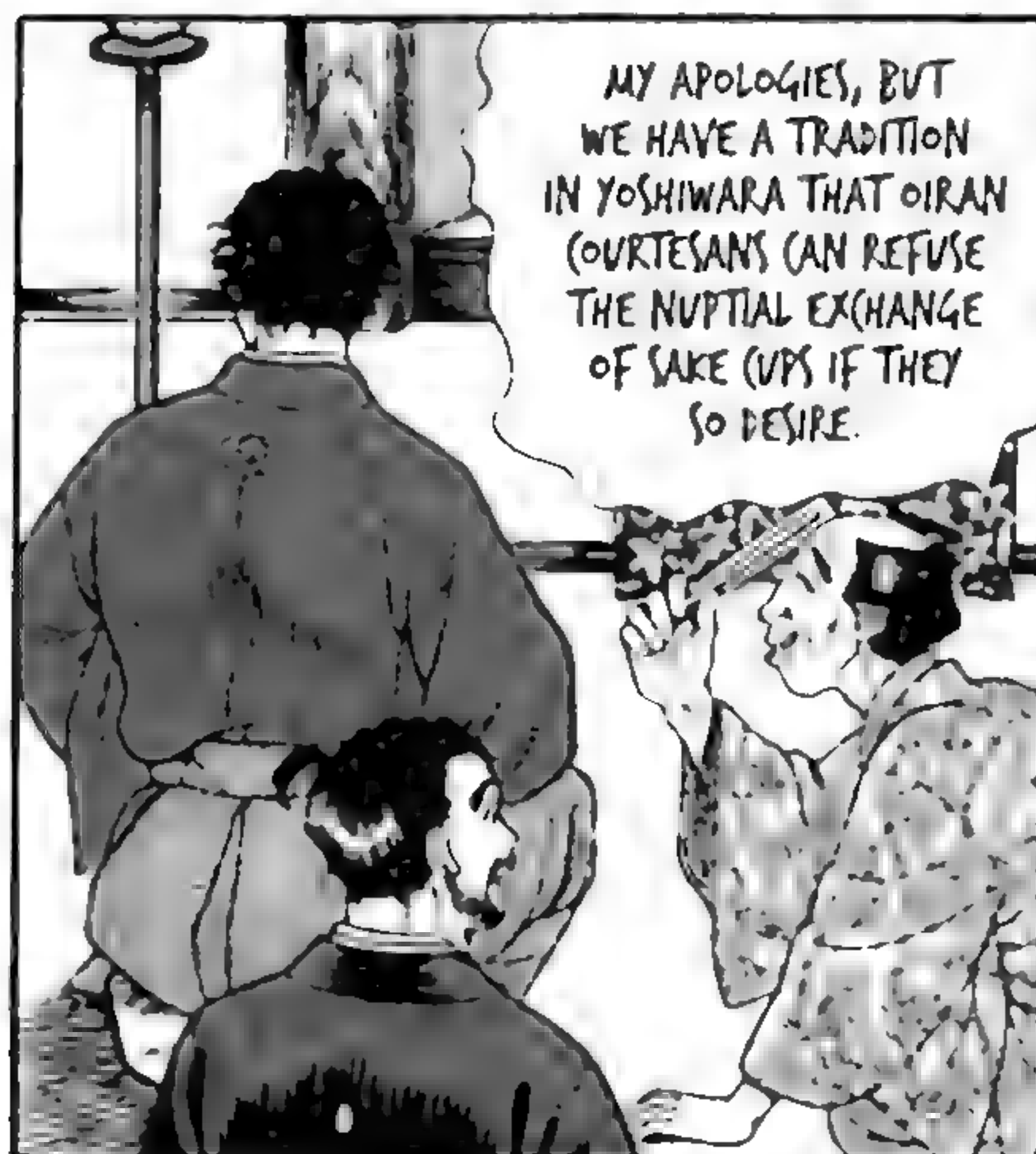


EVEN IF THEY DID SAVE MY FATHER'S LIFE... I SIMPLY REFUSE TO DRINK SAKE WITH GREEN CLOTHS\* LIKE THEM.



LADY NOKAZE, COULD IT BE THAT YOU ARE FEELING UNWELL?!

OIRAN, WOULD YOU PLEASE RETURN TO THE ROOM? THE OWNER OWES HIS LIFE TO THAT CUSTOMER...



MY APOLOGIES, BUT WE HAVE A TRADITION IN YOSHIWARA THAT OIRAN (COURTESANS) CAN REFUSE THE NUPTIAL EXCHANGE OF SAKE CUPS IF THEY SO DESIRE.



15 \*THIS IS ALSO A RITUAL PERFORMED BY A COUPLE AT A TRADITIONAL JAPANESE WEDDING, ALONG WITH OTHER FORMAL OCCASIONS OF PARTNERSHIP OR BOND IN JAPANESE CULTURE. IN REGARDS TO COURTESANS, SUCH AS THOSE IN YOSHIWARA, THE COURTESAN AND THE CUSTOMER EXCHANGE CUPS OF SAKE AS A DECLARATION OF THEIR RELATIONSHIP.



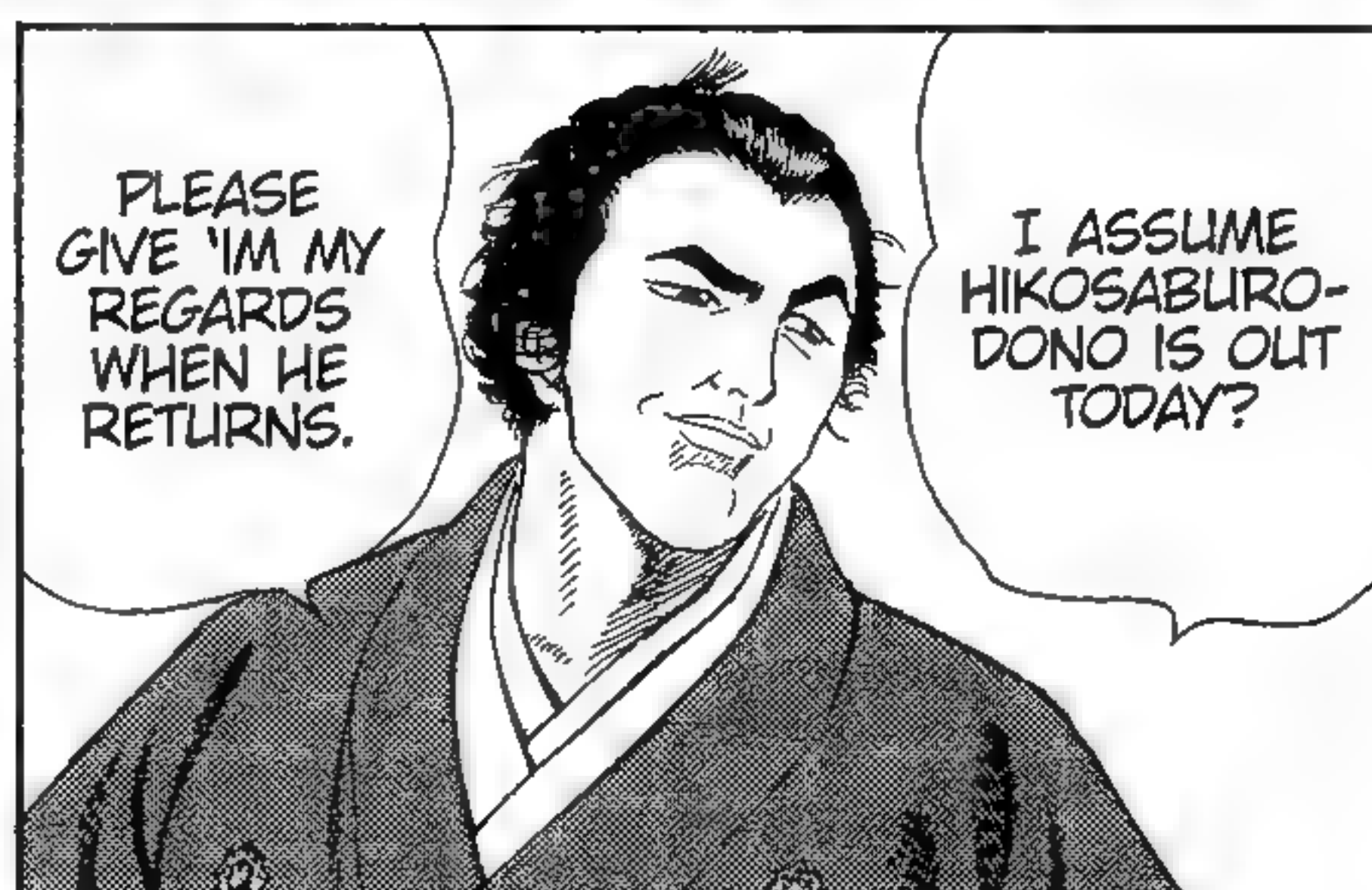
\*CHUSAN WAS THE NEXT HIGHEST RANK OF OIRAN COURTESANS AFTER THE YOBIDASHI.



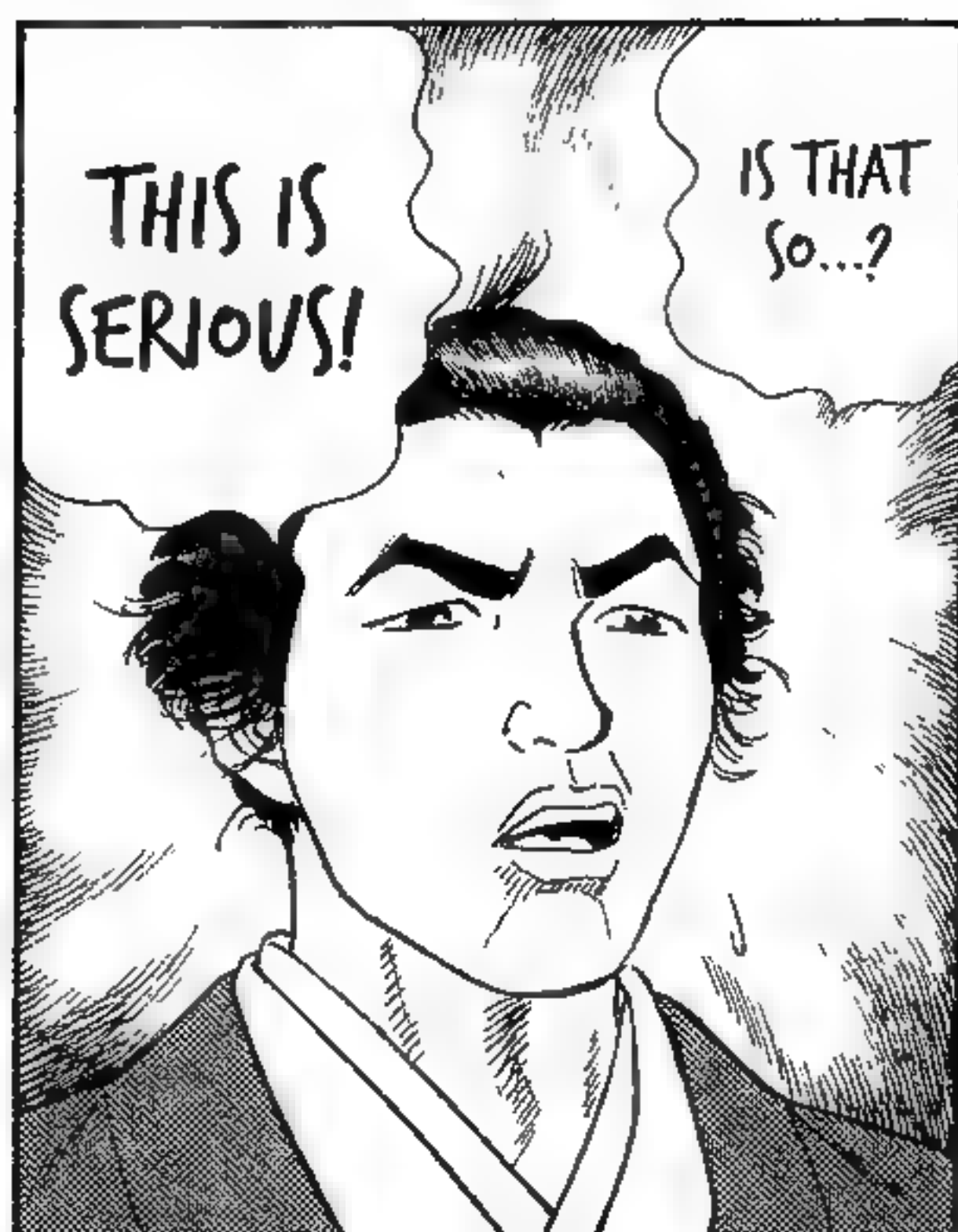












THIS IS  
SERIOUS!

IS THAT  
SO...?



NO MATTER  
WHICH DOCTOR  
WE BRING TO  
(HECK ON HIM,  
IT) JUST KEEPS  
GETTING  
WORSE...

IN THE LAST FEW  
DAYS, HE'S BEEN IN  
SUCH A DAZE THAT  
WE CAN'T EVEN GET  
MUCH OF A RESPONSE  
OUT OF HIM...



WHY DON'T  
YA LET HIM  
CHECK ON YER  
HUSBAND!

OH, I KNOW,  
MADAM! THIS MAN  
'ERE, MINAKATA-  
DONO, IS ACTUALLY  
A FAMOUS DOCTOR  
WHO TEACHES AT THE  
WESTERN MEDICAL  
INSTITUTE OF THE  
SHOGUNATE!



W-WELL,  
THEN...


LET'S  
SEE HIM  
RIGHT  
AWAY.



I BEG  
OF YOU!  
PLEASE TAKE  
A LOOK AT  
MY HUS-  
BAND!

EH?  
YOU'RE  
A DOC-  
TOR?!





HIKOSABURO  
SUZUYA, 52 YEARS  
OLD. HE STARTED  
TO COMPLAIN ABOUT  
HEADACHES TWO TO  
THREE WEEKS AGO.  
LATER ON, HE BEGAN  
DRAGGING ONE LEG  
WHEN WALKING  
AROUND...

AT THE SAME TIME,  
HE'S HAD NO ENERGY AND  
HAS BEEN SPACING OUT  
FREQUENTLY. IN THESE LAST  
FEW DAYS IN PARTICULAR,  
HE'S BEEN FEELING NUMB IN  
HIS RIGHT HAND AS WELL AS  
HIS RIGHT LEG, AND HIS  
CONSCIOUS IS BECOMING  
MUDDLED, HIS WIFE SAID...





A STROKE...  
OR MAYBE  
A BRAIN  
TUMOR?

\*A TEST MEASURING CONTROL OF ONE'S MUSCLES ON A SCALE OF 5 TO 0, WHERE 5 IS NORMAL.



EVEN THE UPPER  
LIMBS ON THE  
RIGHT SIDE OF HIS  
BODY ARE NUMB.  
THESE SYMPTOMS  
MUST MEAN IT'S  
A CASE OF...

NO... THE NUMBNESS  
OF THE RIGHT LEG IS  
ABOUT 2 OUT OF 5 ON  
THE MUSCLE GRADE\*  
(CAN'T KEEP THE KNEE  
BENT AGAINST GRAVITY.)  
HE'S ALSO SHOWING A  
POSITIVE REACTION TO  
THE BABINSKI REFLEX\*.

\*AN ABNORMAL REFLEX. THE BIG TOE BENDS UP WHEN THE SOLE IS STIMULATED DUE TO NERVE DAMAGE.



HUH...?  
WELL, NOW  
THAT YOU  
MENTION  
IT...



FOR  
INSTANCE...  
DID HE FALL  
OVER... OR  
BUMP INTO  
ANYTHING...



MADAM, DO  
YOU REMEMBER  
ANYTHING UNUSUAL  
HAPPENING TO  
HIM BEFORE HE  
STARTED HAVING  
HEADACHES?

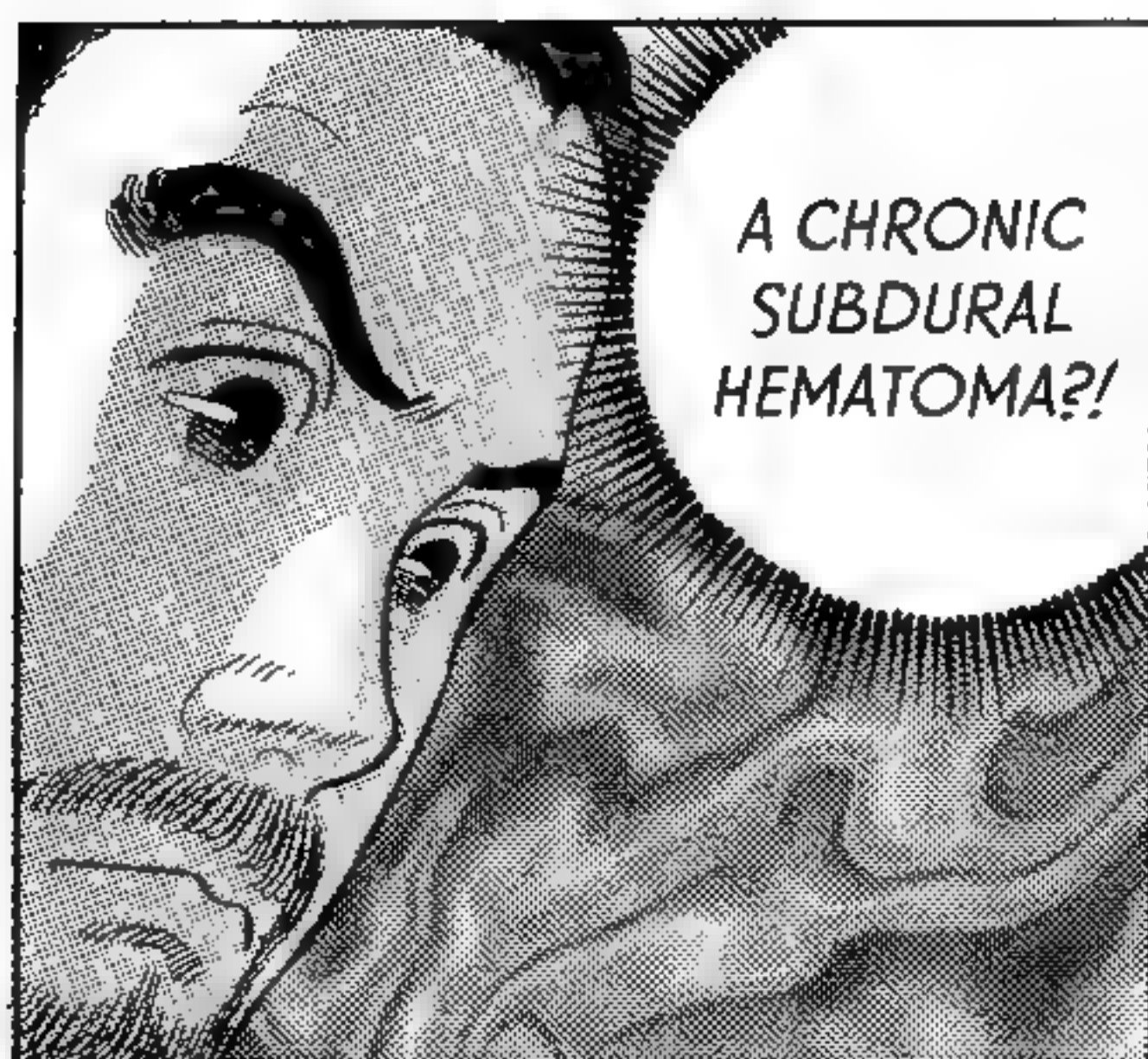


HE GOT A BIG  
BUMP ON THE  
LEFT SIDE OF  
HIS FOREHEAD  
WHICH GAVE HIM  
TERRIBLE PAIN  
AT THE TIME,  
HOWEVER...



IT WAS OVER  
A MONTH AND A  
HALF AGO, BUT  
HE LOST HIS  
FOOTING WHILE  
CHANGING THE  
WATER OF OUR  
HOME SHRINE...



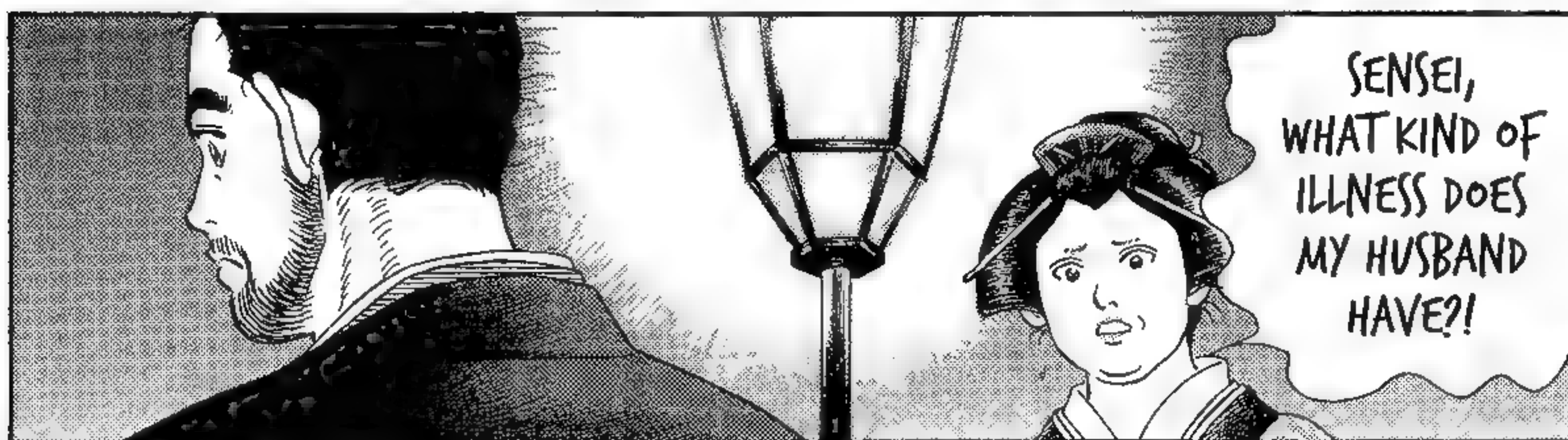


A CHRONIC  
SUBDURAL  
HEMATOMA?!



AND THERE  
HAD BEEN NO  
PROBLEMS  
AFTERWARD  
AS HE WAS  
DOING WELL  
FOR A MONTH  
OR SO...

BOTH  
THE BUMP  
AND THE PAIN  
DISAPPEARED  
AFTER A FEW  
DAYS...



SENSEI,  
WHAT KIND OF  
ILLNESS DOES  
MY HUSBAND  
HAVE?!



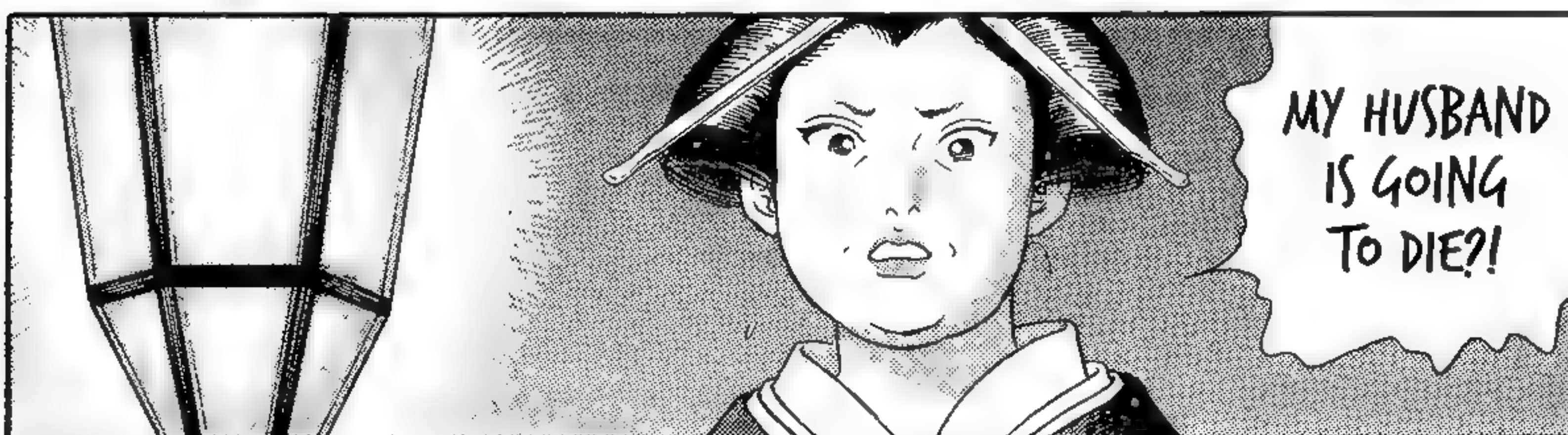
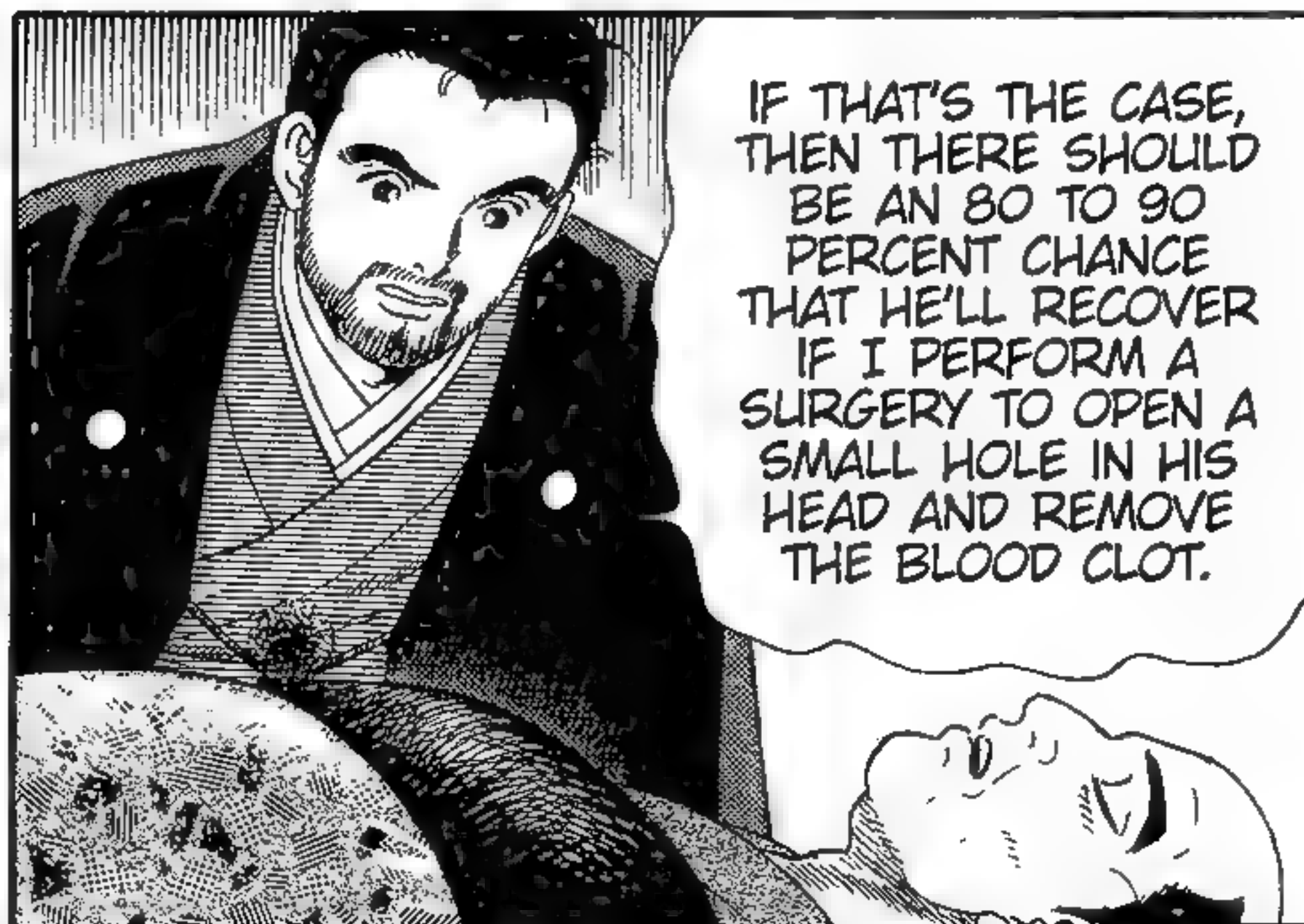
BLOOD IN  
HIS HEAD,  
YOU SAY?!

IS THERE  
ANY WAY  
TO HEAL  
THAT?!



IT'S POSSIBLE...  
HE MAY HAVE A  
CONDITION THAT  
OCCURS MORE IN  
THE ELDERLY THAT'S  
CAUSED BY A LIGHT  
HEAD INJURY WHICH  
RESULTS IN BLOOD  
CLOTTING SEVERAL  
WEEKS LATER.





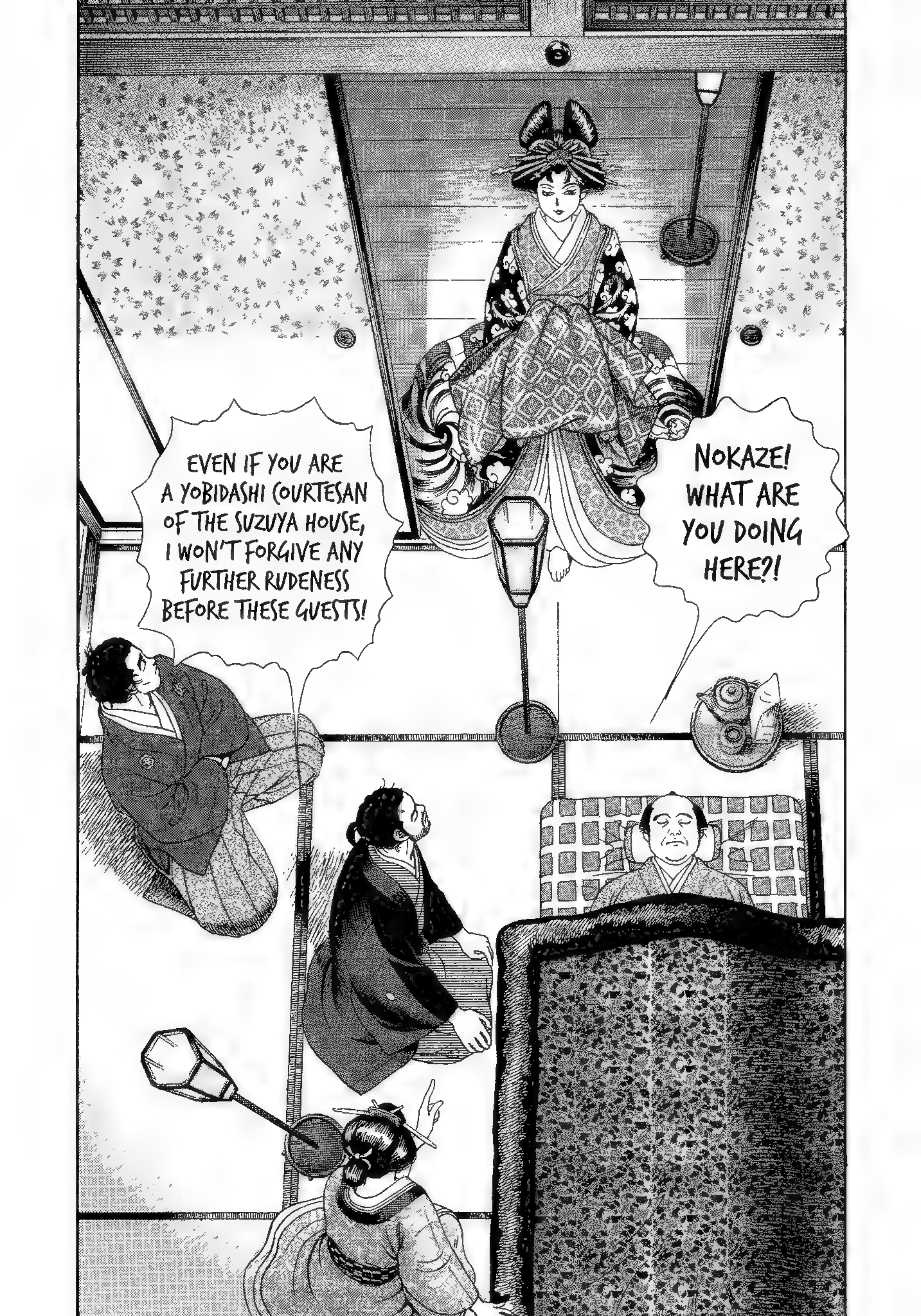


IS WHAT  
YOU SAID  
TRUE?!

TWAP



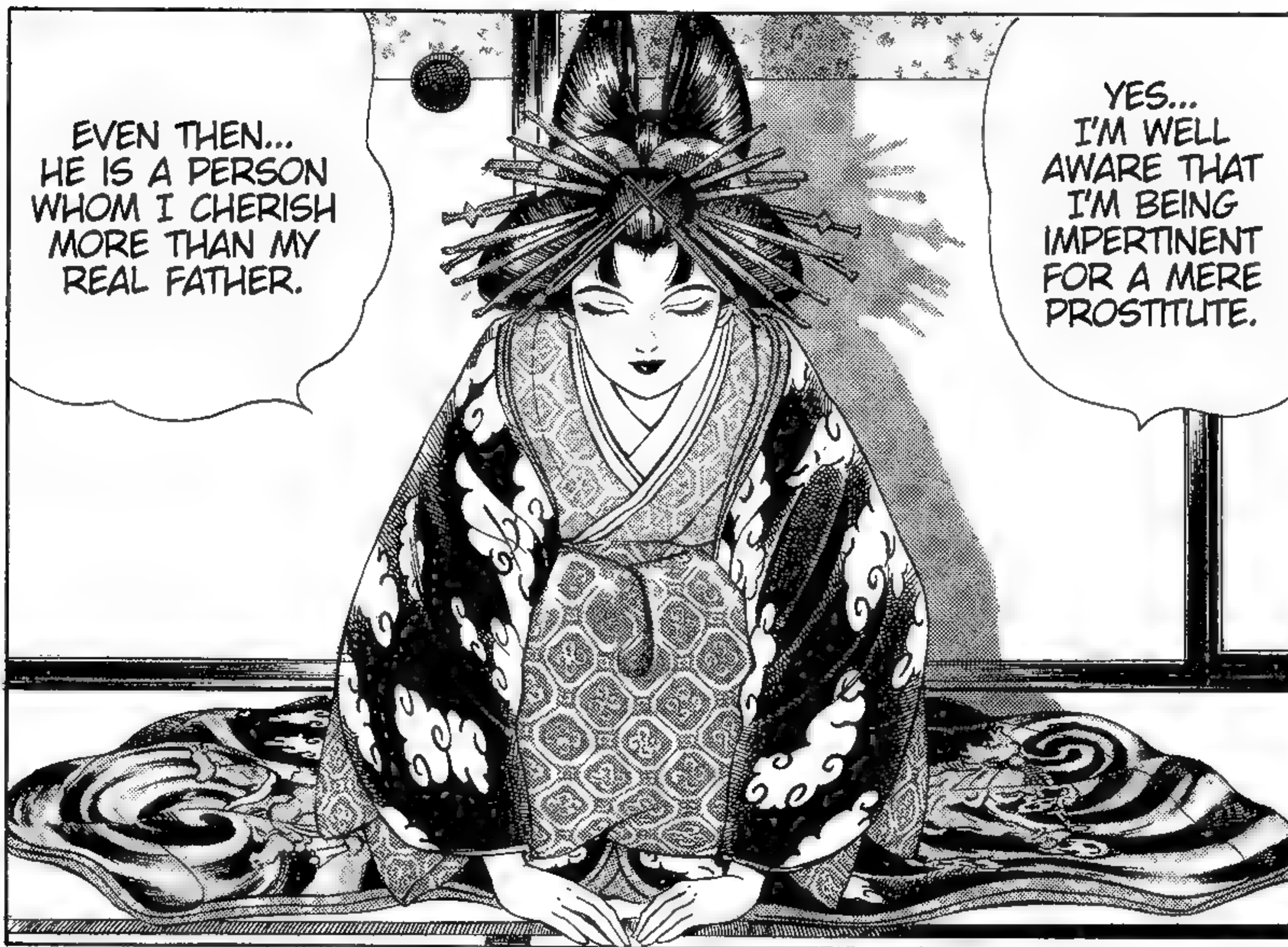
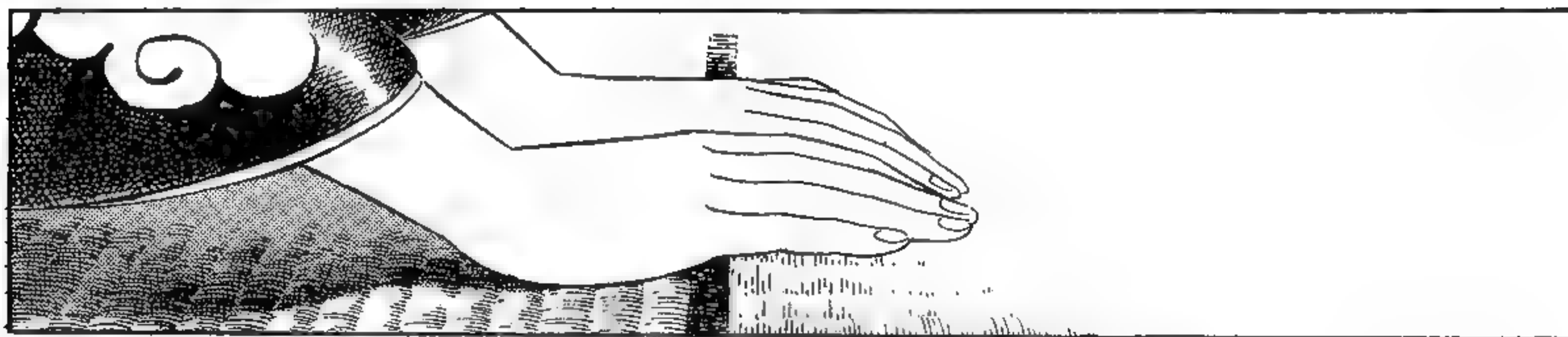




EVEN IF YOU ARE  
A YOBIDASHI COURTESAN  
OF THE SUZUYA HOUSE,  
I WON'T FORGIVE ANY  
FURTHER RUDENESS  
BEFORE THESE GUESTS!

NOKAZE!  
WHAT ARE  
YOU DOING  
HERE?!



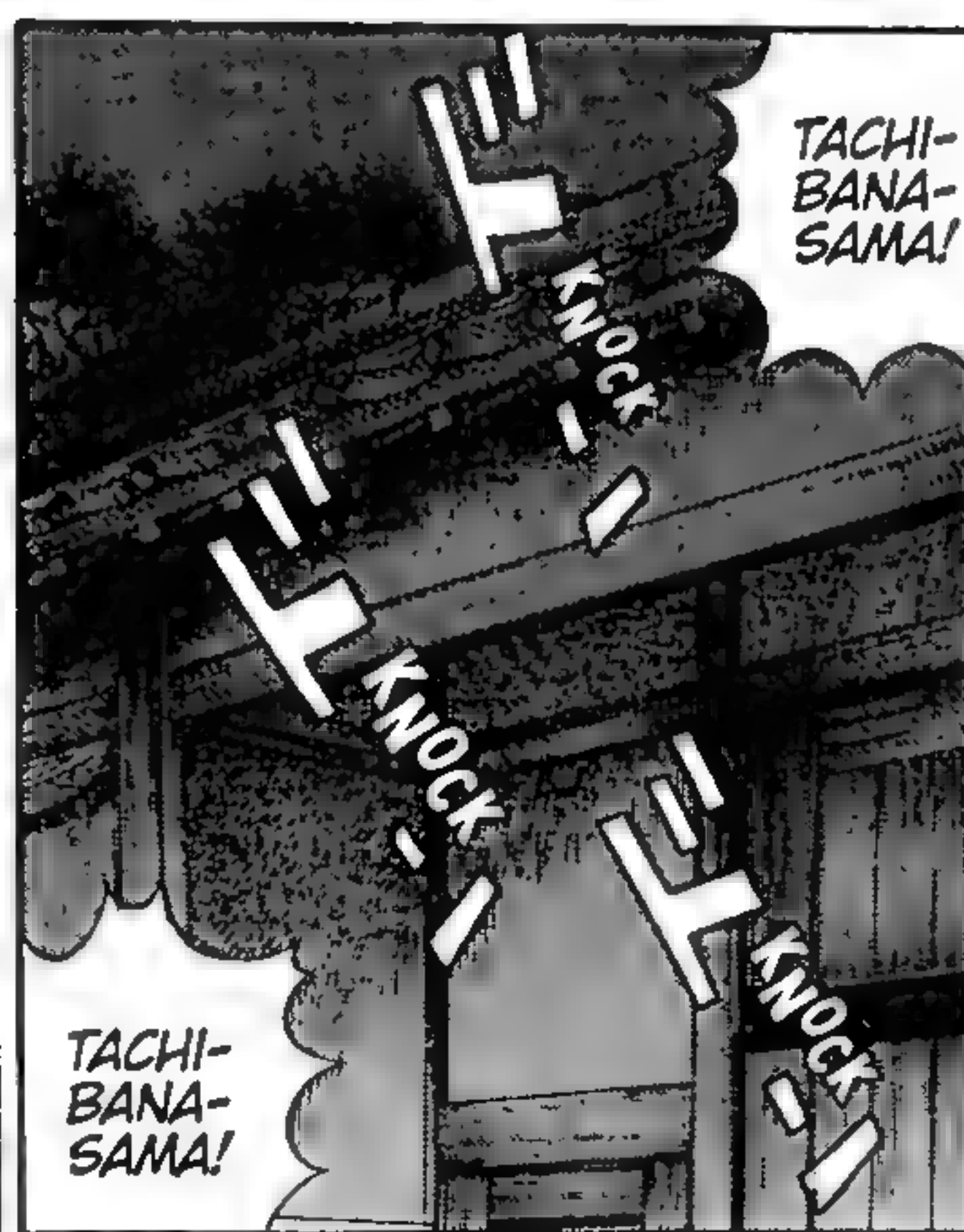
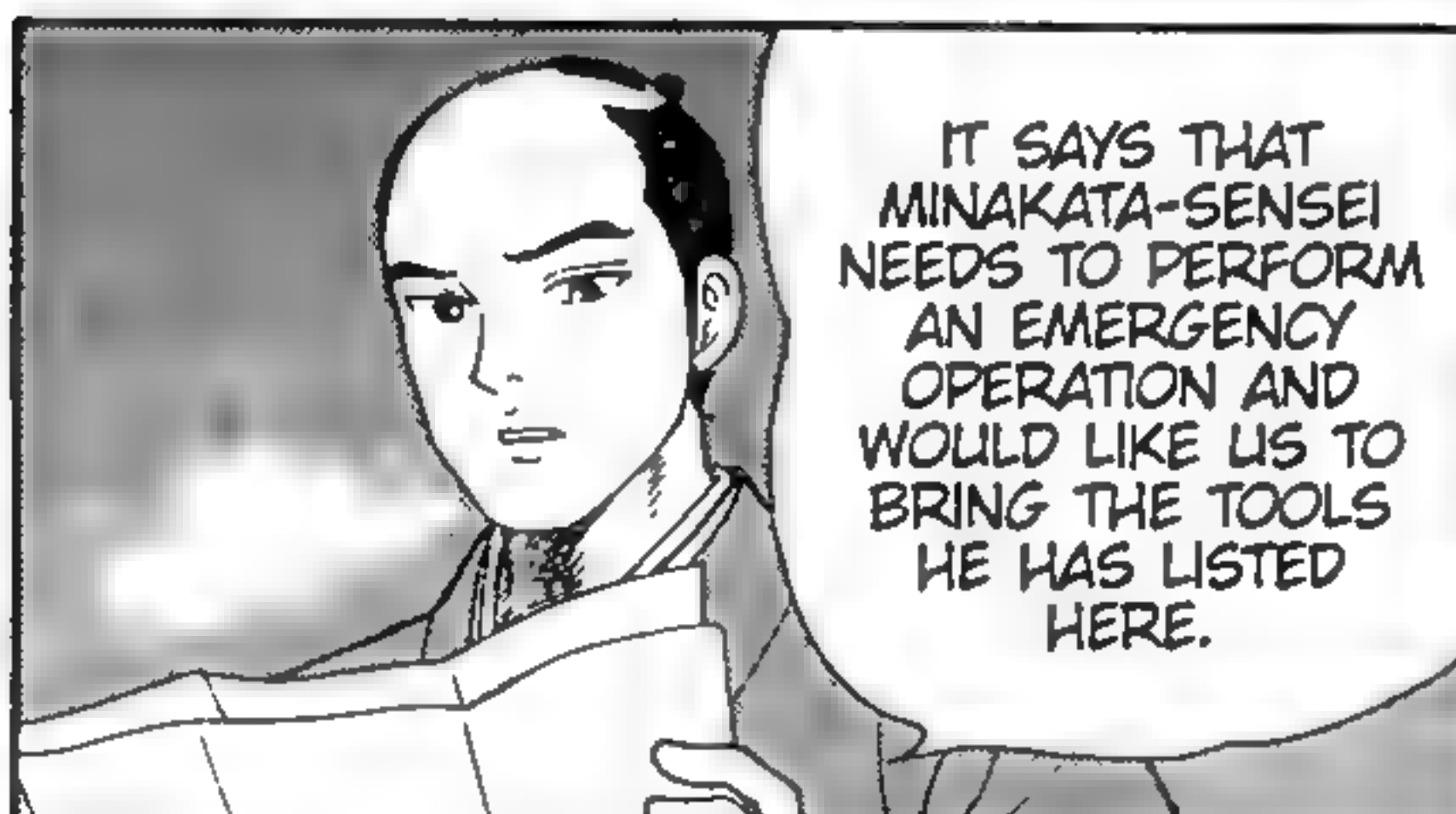




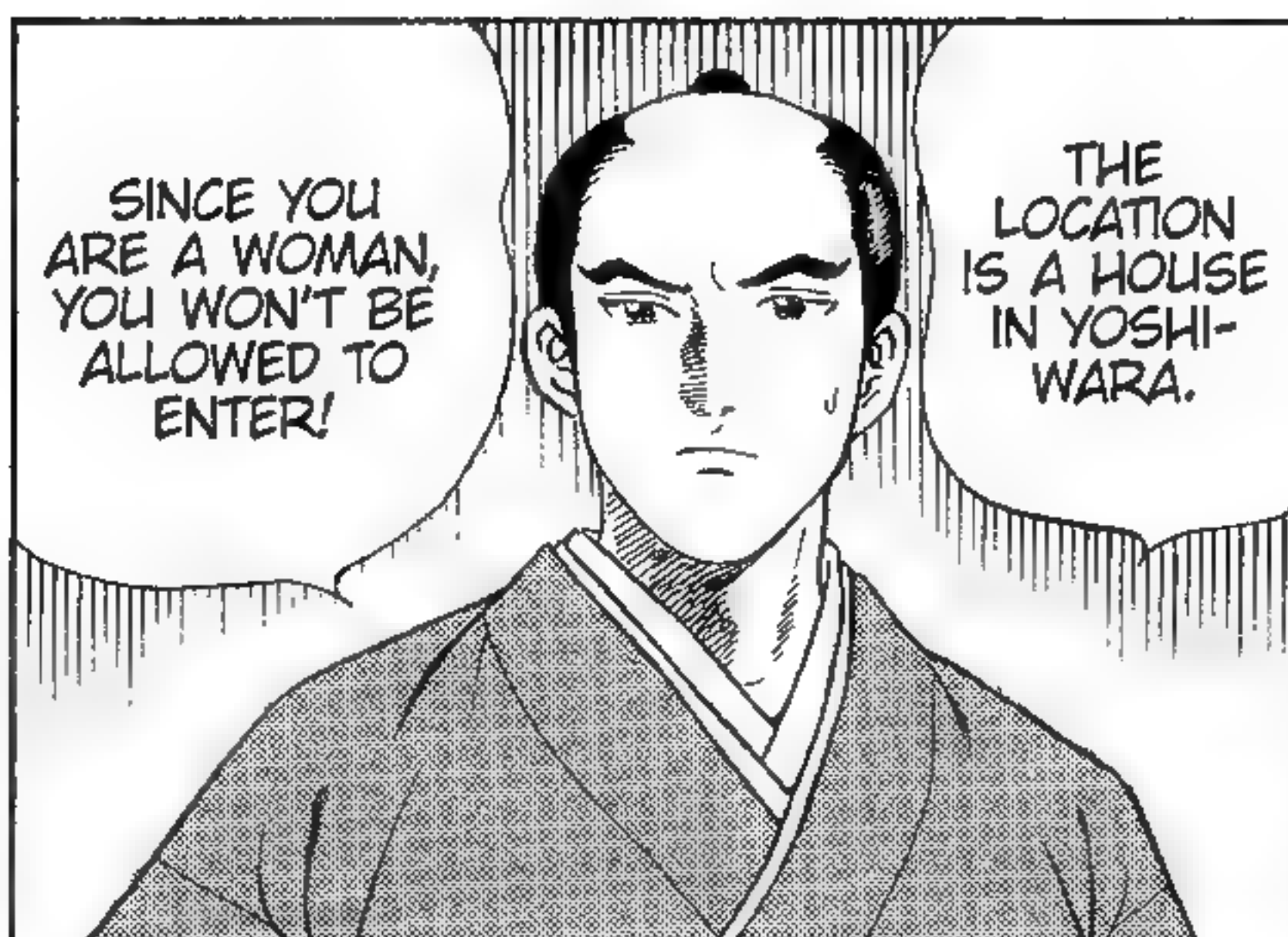


\*OWNERS OF COURTESAN HOUSES WERE CALLED THE "FORGOTTEN EIGHT" AS THEY HAD TO FORGET THE EIGHT VIRTUES (HUMANITY, SELFLESSNESS, PROPRIETY, WISDOM, HONESTY, FAITH, FILIAL PIETY, AND RESPECT FOR OTHERS) TO RUN THEIR BUSINESS.











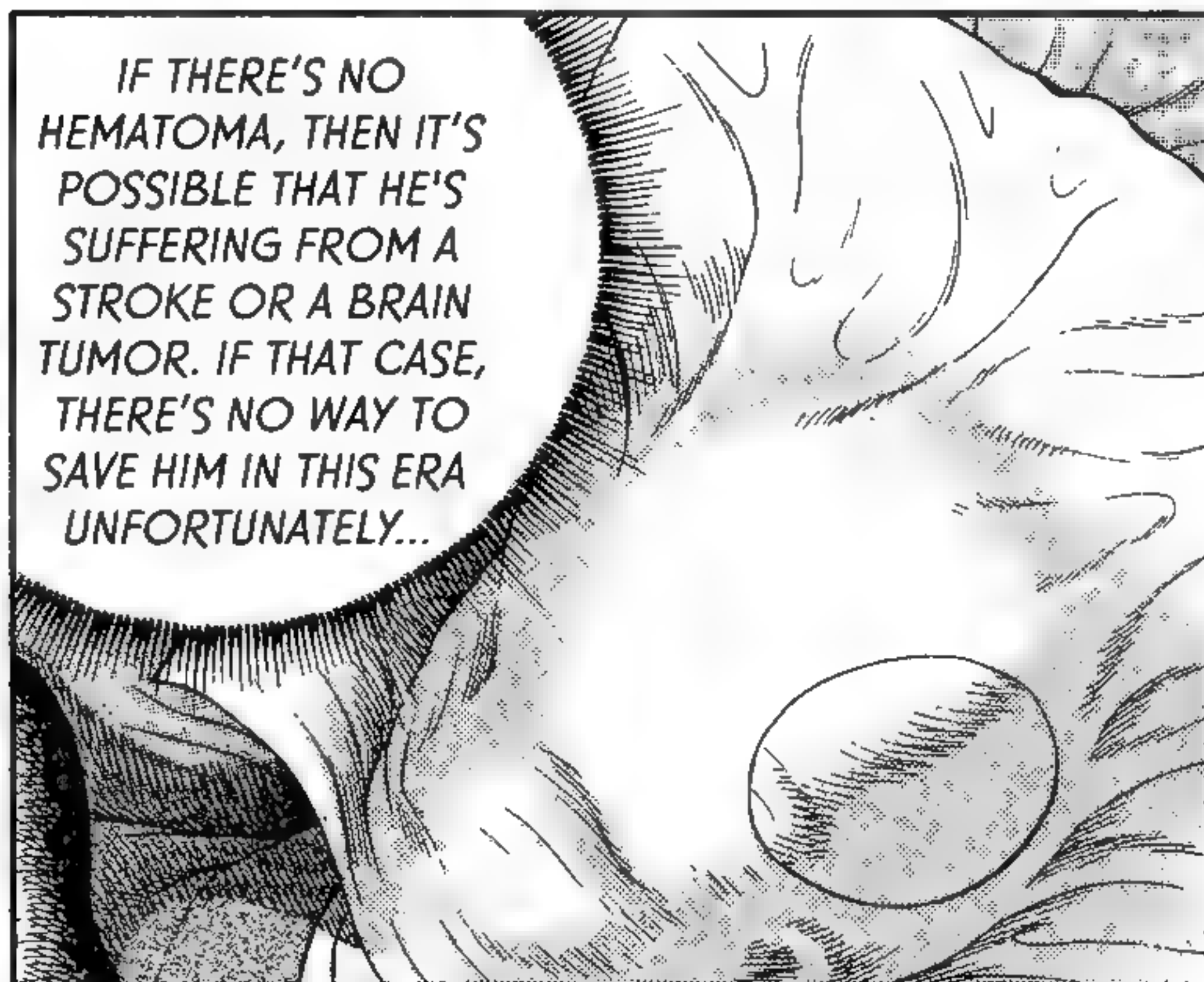
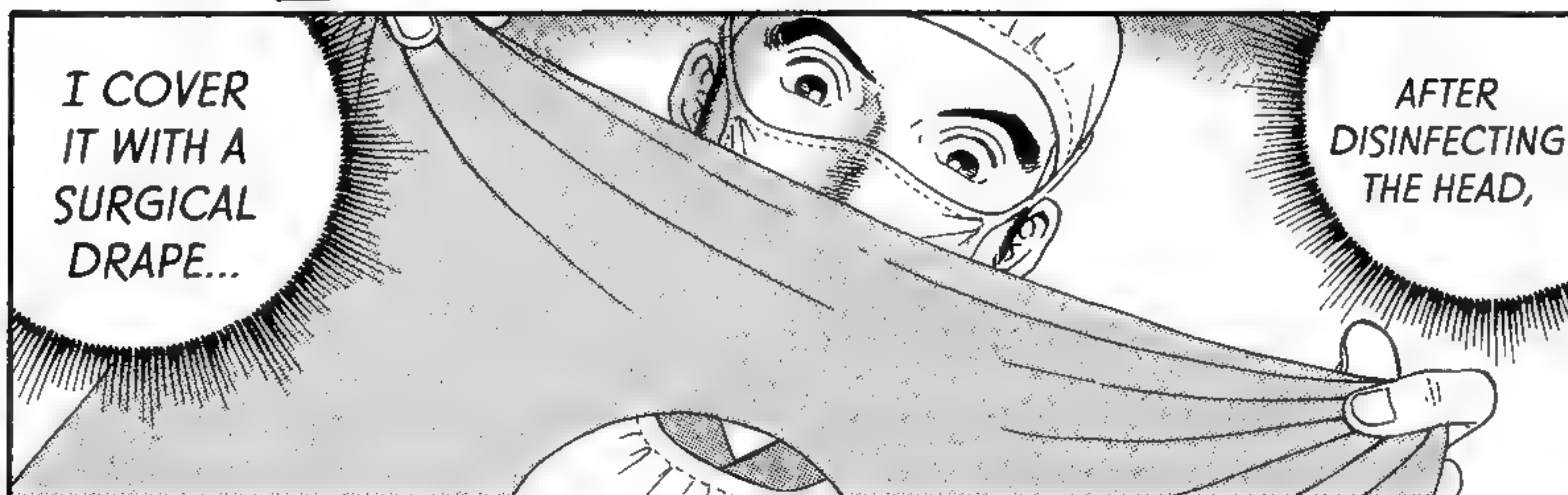




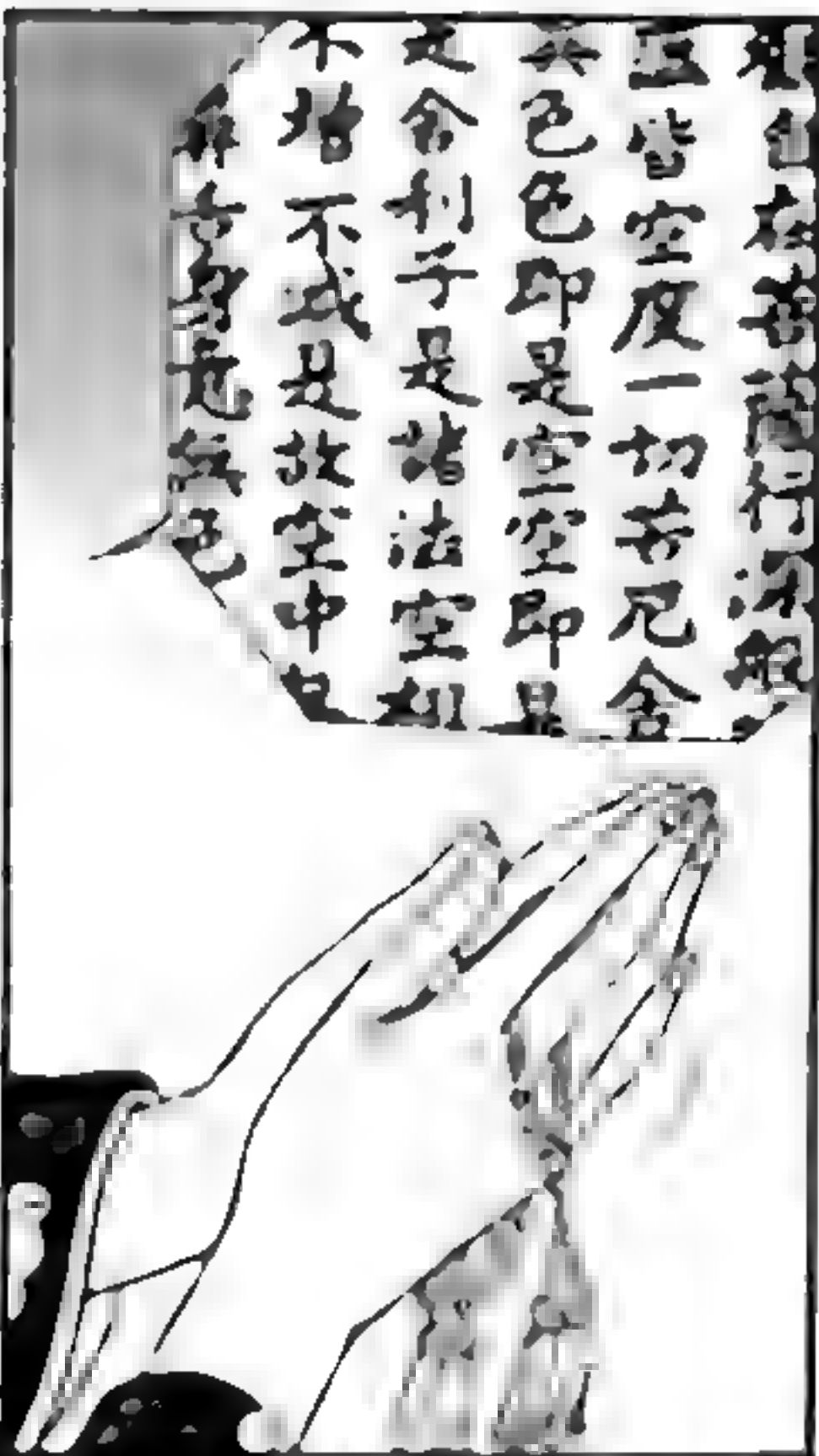
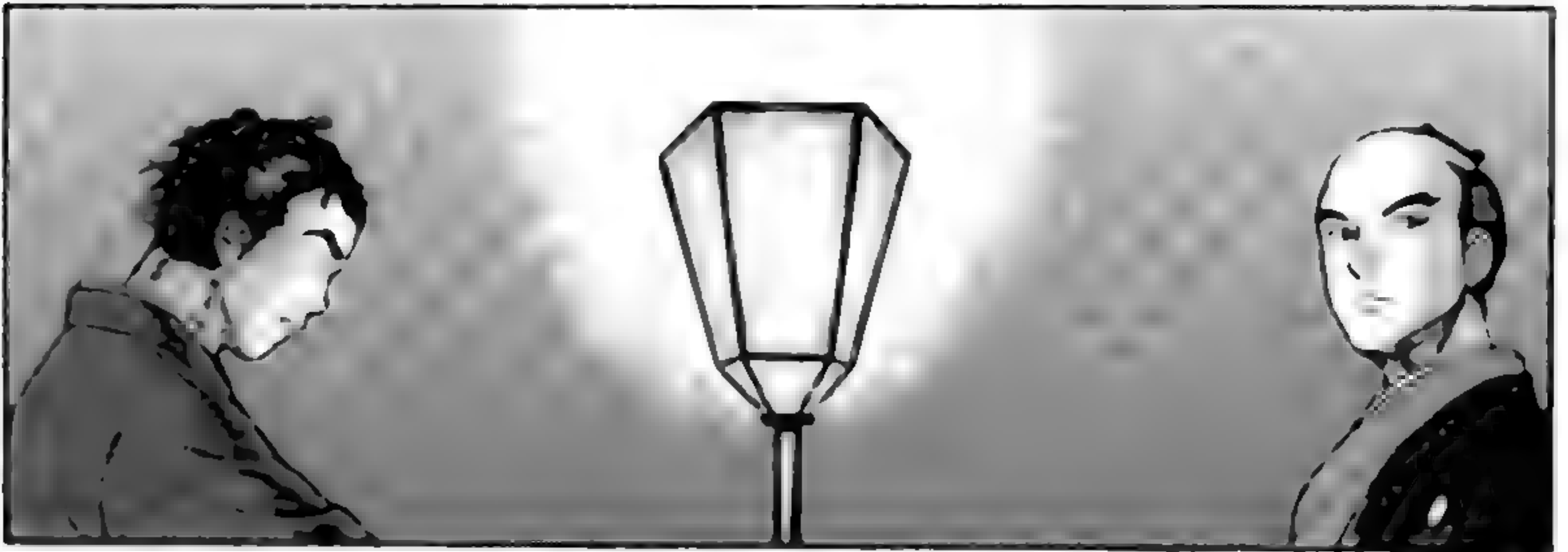
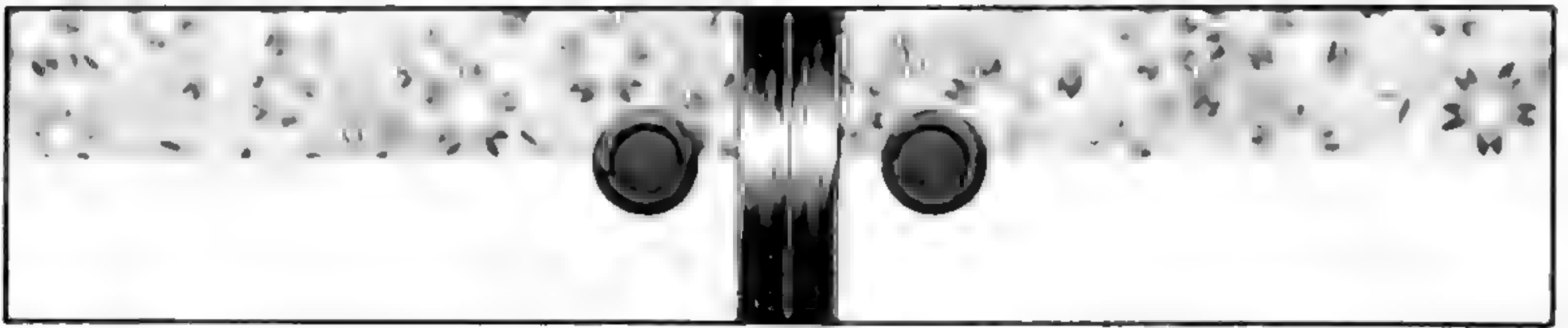
GENERAL  
ANESTHESIA BY  
ETHER HAS BEEN  
SUCCESSFULLY  
ACHIEVED USING  
THE OPEN DROP  
METHOD



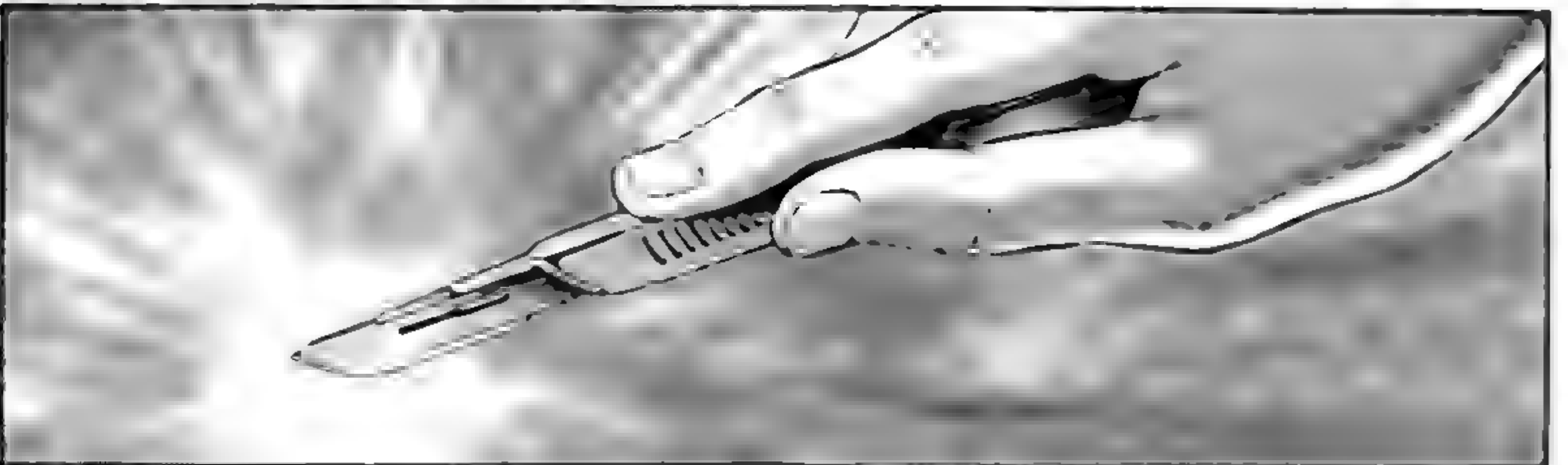








•BUDDHIST CHANT FROM THE HEART SUTRA







MILLIONS ARE  
SPENT HERE IN  
THE YOSHIWARA  
PLEASURE QUARTERS  
EVERY DAY.



IT WAS ALL  
BECAUSE OF FATHER  
THAT I, AN EXTREMELY  
STIFF-NECKED GIRL AT THE  
BEGINNING, COULD BECOME  
A TOP OIRAN COURTESAN  
HERE IN THE BIGGEST RED-  
LIGHT DISTRICT  
IN EDO.

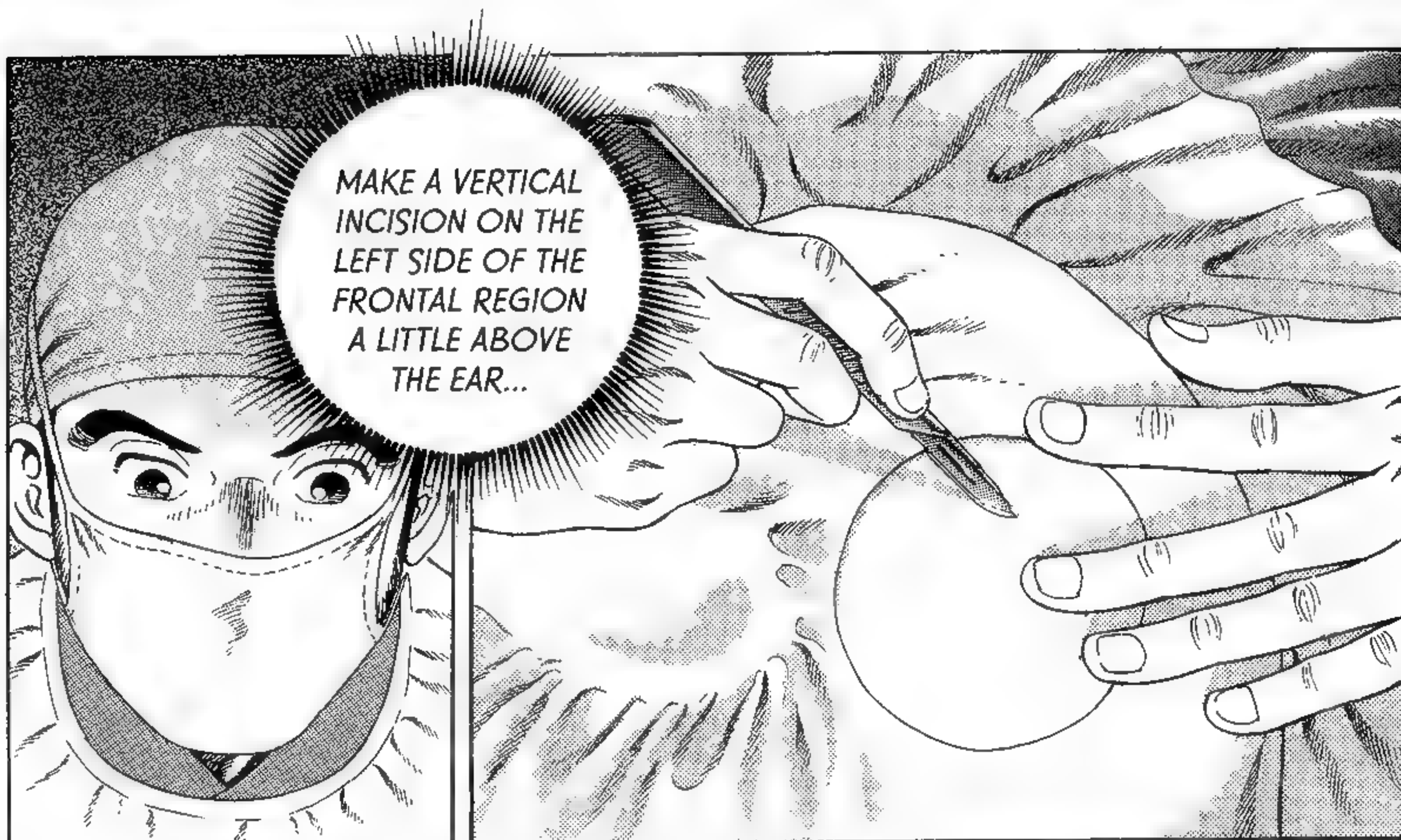


BELIEF CHAPTER  
PART 3: CROWS AT DAWN

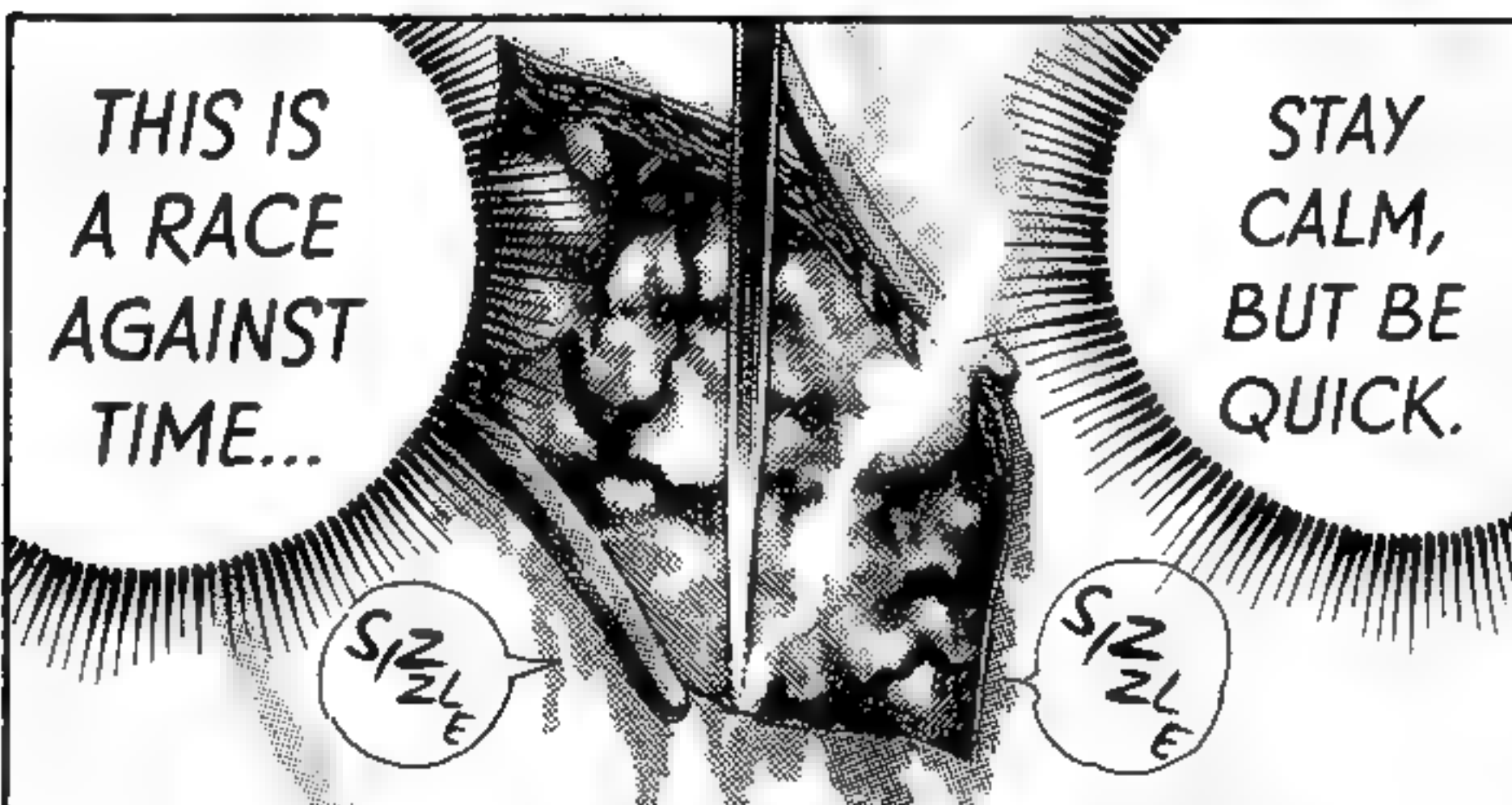
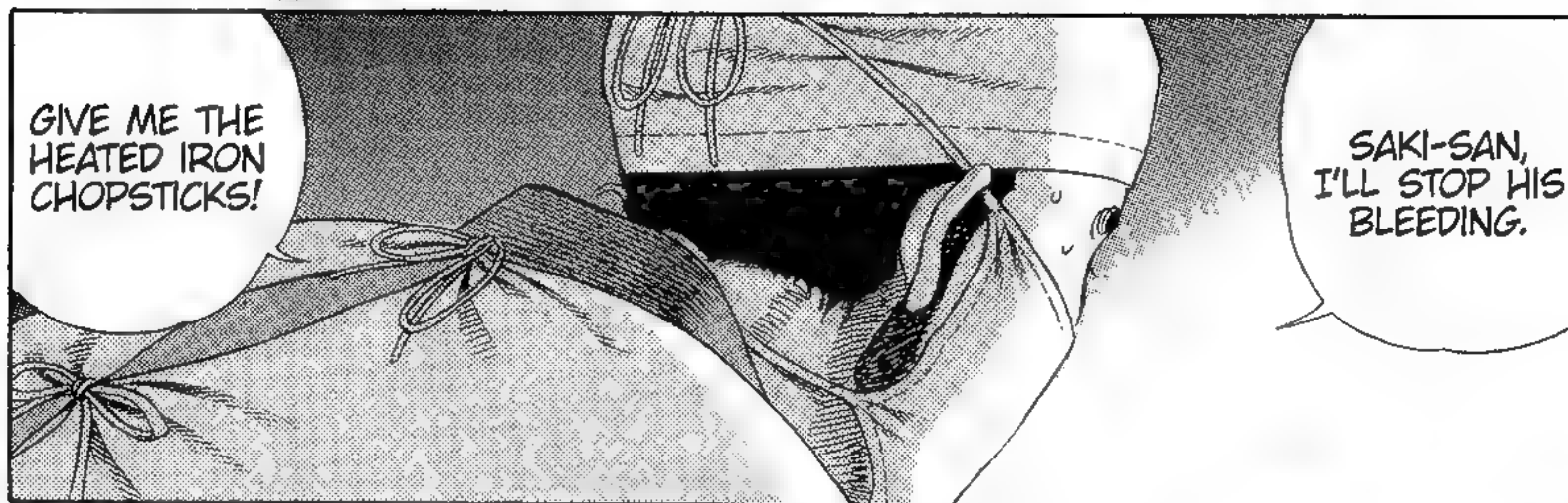
RIGHT NOW,  
THE LIFE OF MY  
FATHER IS IN THE  
HANDS OF THAT  
DOCTOR.



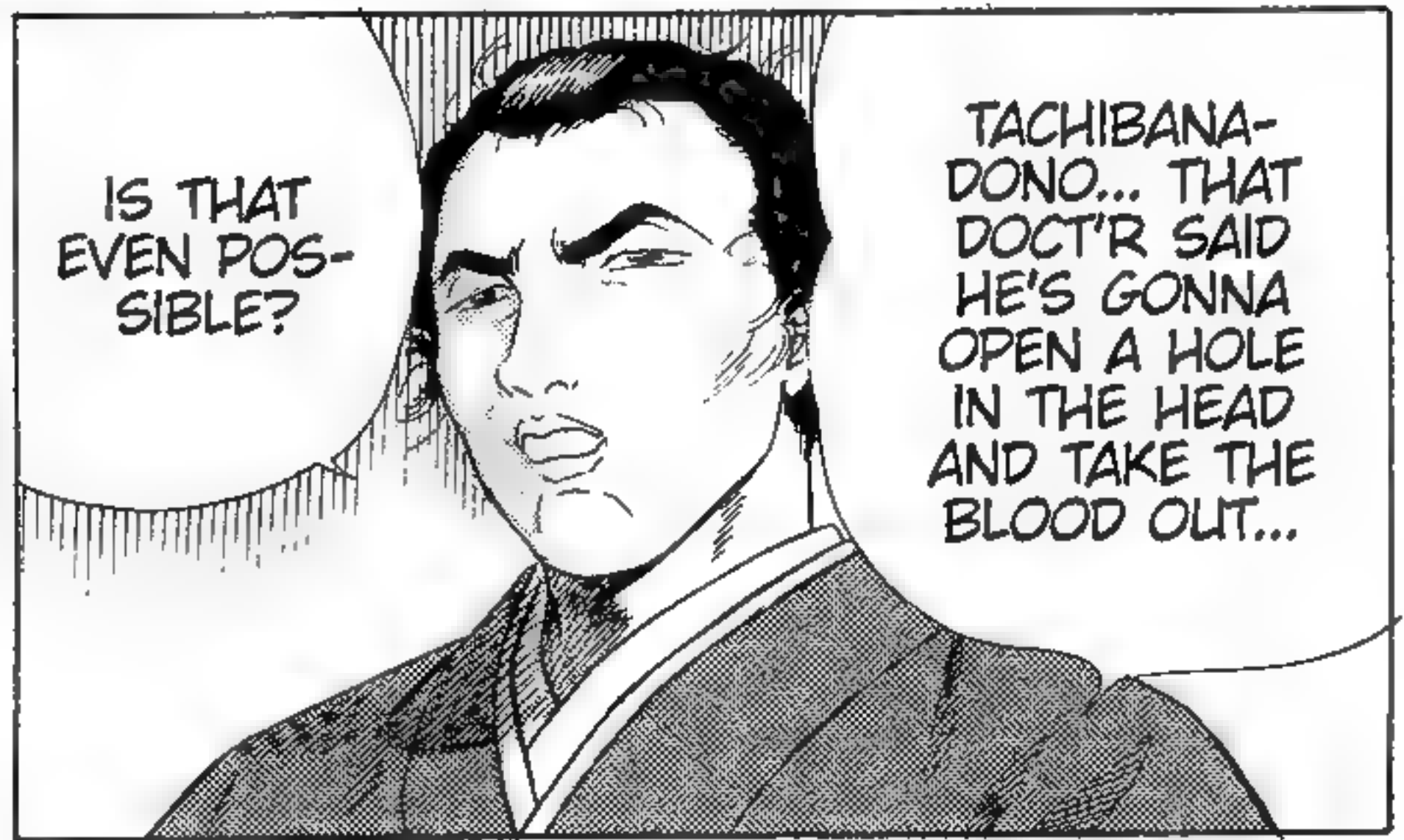
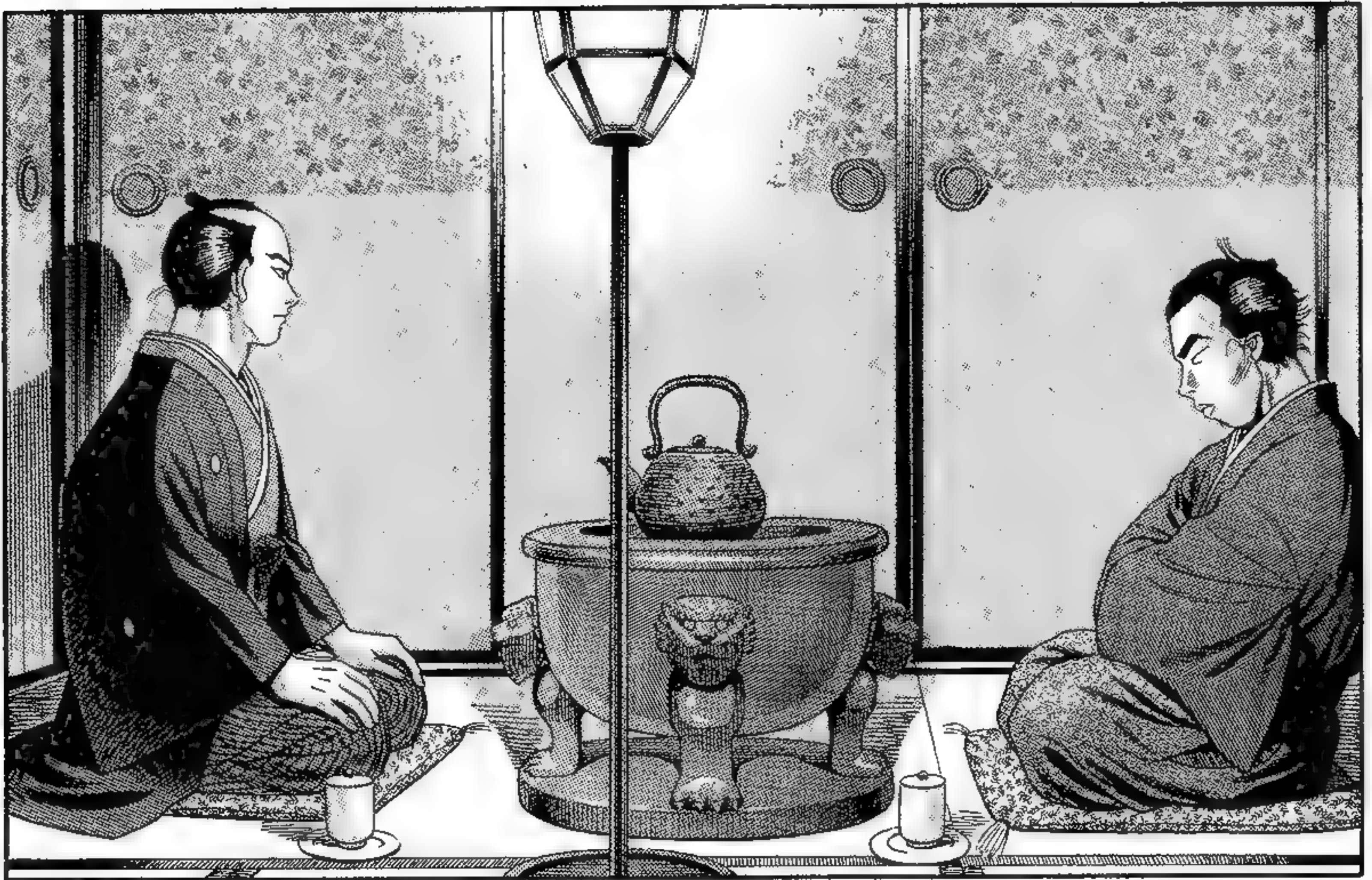




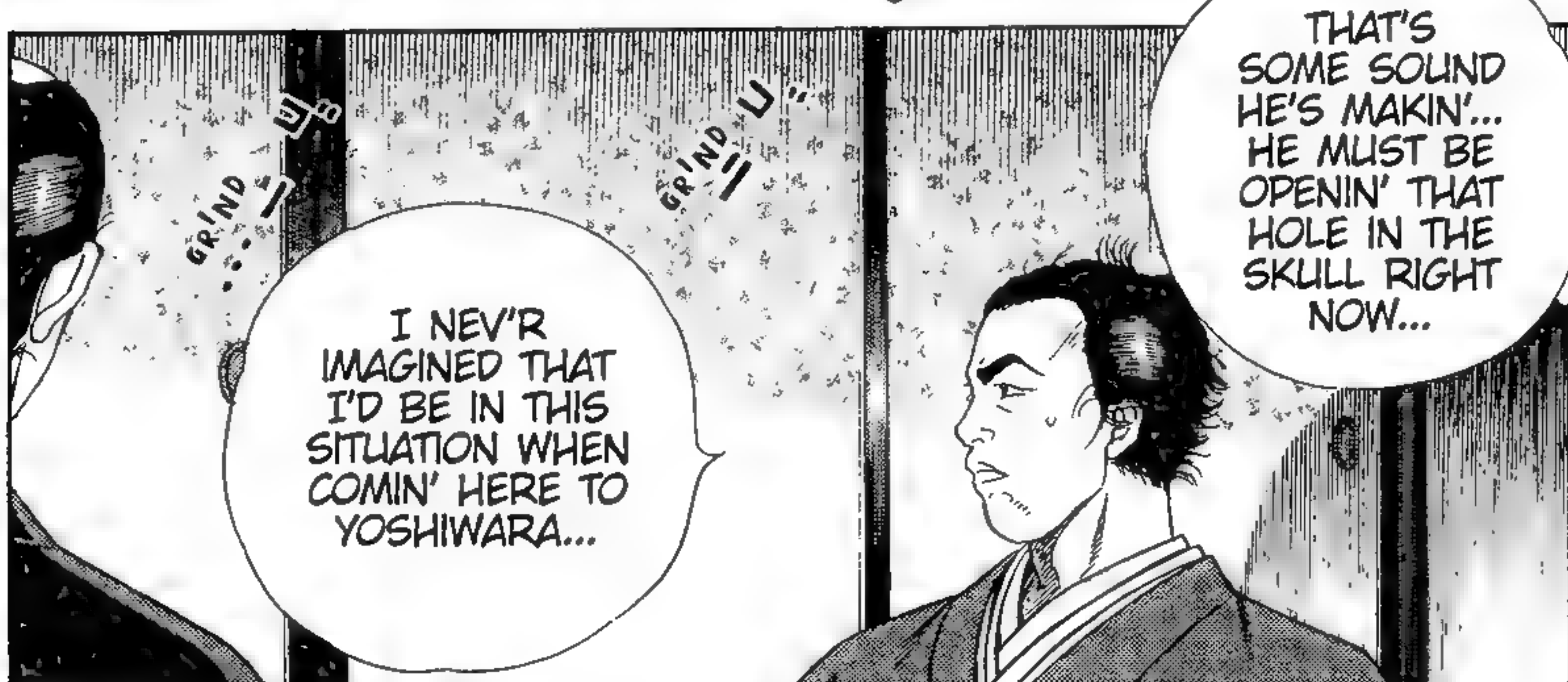
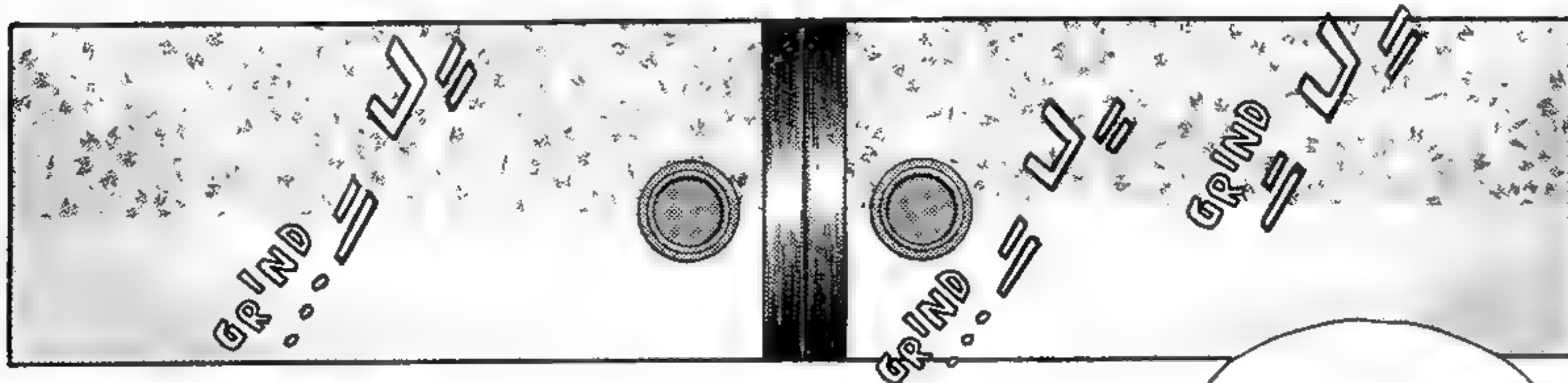
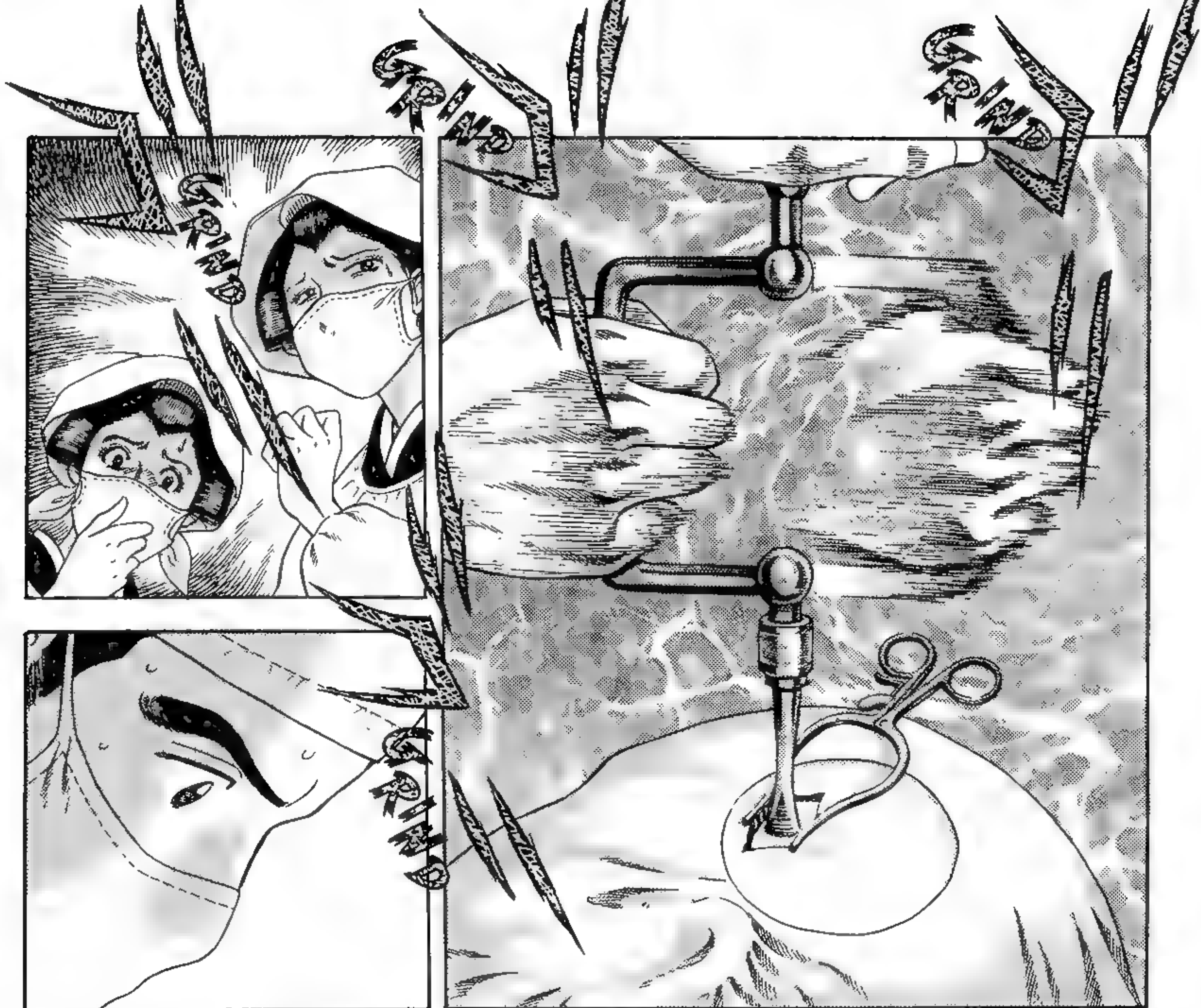












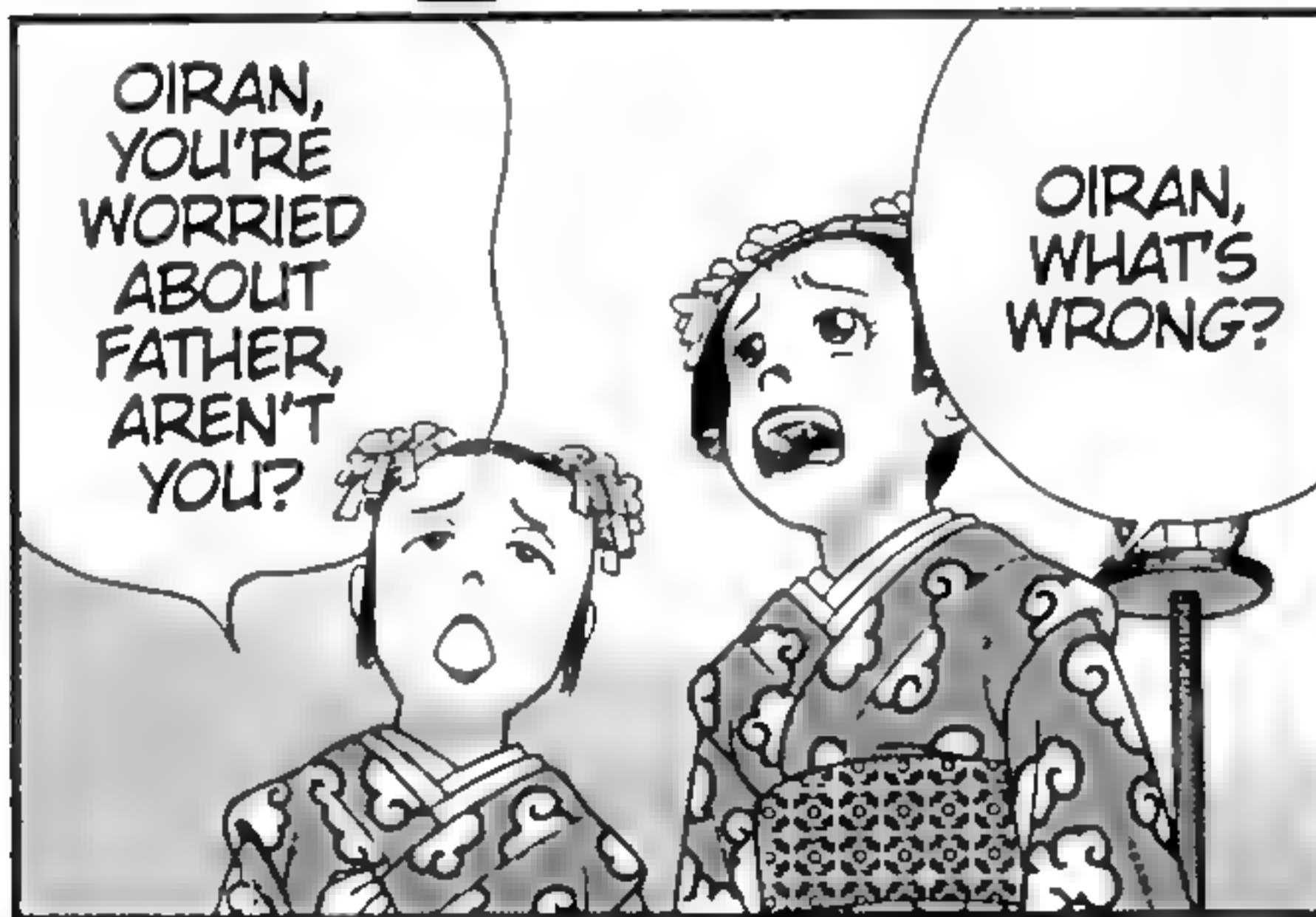




IT'S ALREADY  
PAST 10 AT NIGHT,  
BUT THERE'RE STILL  
LINES OF CUSTOMERS  
OUTSIDE, HOPIN' TO  
CATCH A GLIMPSE OF  
THE COURTESANS  
FROM BEYOND  
THE GRILLE.








\*KAMURO ARE YOUNG GIRLS WHO ARE APPRENTICES AND AIDE FOR CURRENT OIRAN COURTESANS.







THIS IS...  
YOSHIWARA  
THE PLACE THAT  
YOU'LL HAVE TO  
LIVE IN FOR AT  
LEAST THE NEXT  
TEN YEARS UNTIL  
YOUR TERM OF  
SERVICE IS UP.

IT'S 185 KAN  
EAST WEST AND 185  
KAN LONG METERS FROM  
NORTH TO SOUTH. THERE  
ARE MORE THAN 8,000  
COURTESANS AND A TOTAL  
OF OVER 10,000 PEOPLE  
LIVING HERE WITHIN THE  
FIVE BLOCKS OF THE  
YOSHIWARA PLEASURE  
DISTRICT.

CHODU,  
COME HERE  
AND TAKE A  
LOOK...



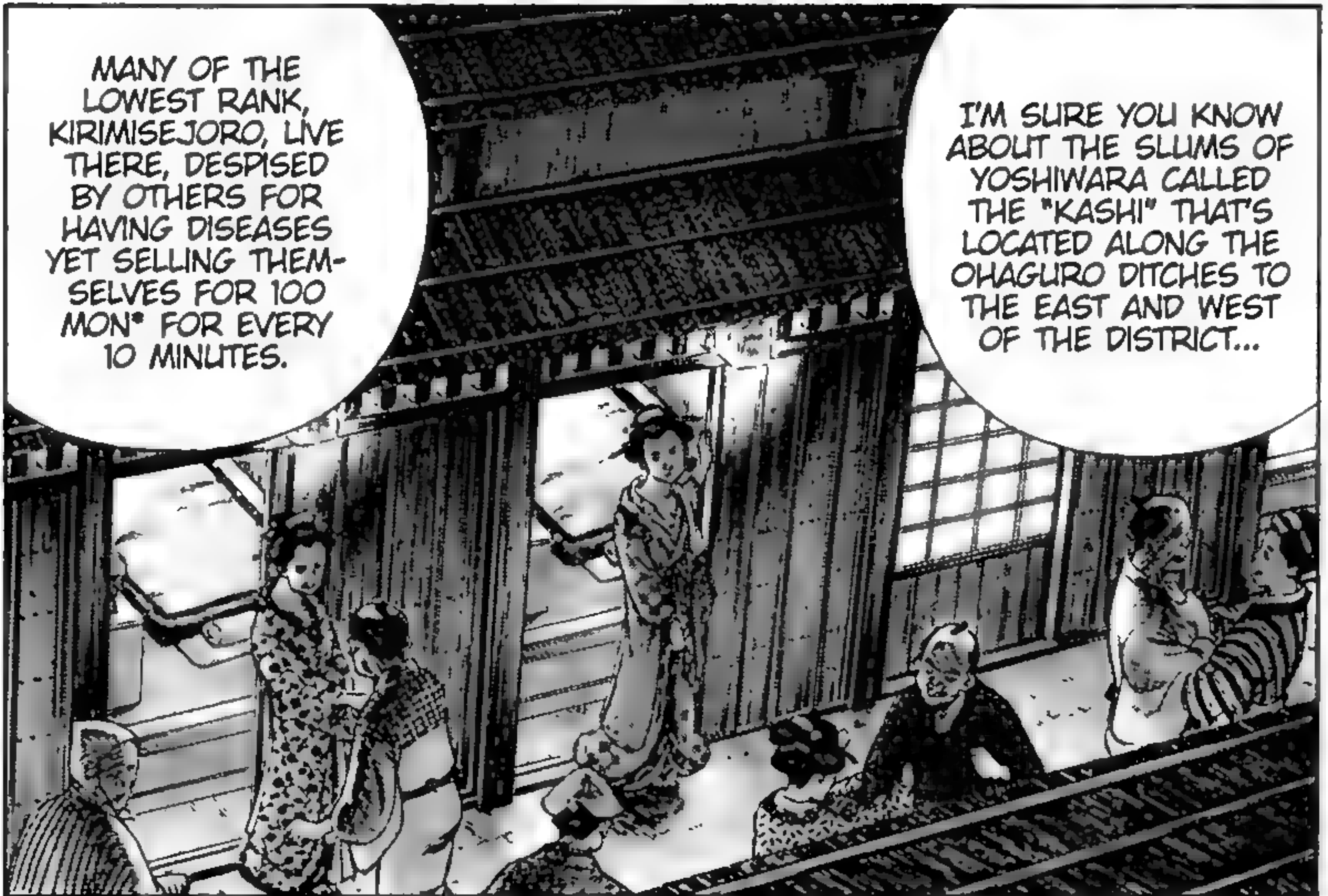
NOW THE  
YOBIDASHI ARE  
THE HIGHEST,  
THEN CHUSAN,  
TSUKEMAWASHI,  
ZASHIKIMOCHI,  
HEYAMOCHI, AND  
FINALLY KIRI-  
MISEJORO.



THE RANKS  
OF THE HIGHEST  
COURTESANS FROM  
THE HOREKI ERA\*,  
THE "TAYU" AND  
THE "KOSHI," HAVE  
ALL DISAPPEARED  
TOGETHER WITH  
THE GLORY OF THE  
ERA AS IT HAS  
PASSED BY.

\*MID-EDO PERIOD (1751-1764)

MANY OF THE  
LOWEST RANK,  
KIRIMISEJORO, LIVE  
THERE, DESPISED  
BY OTHERS FOR  
HAVING DISEASES  
YET SELLING THEM-  
SELVES FOR 100  
MON\* FOR EVERY  
10 MINUTES.

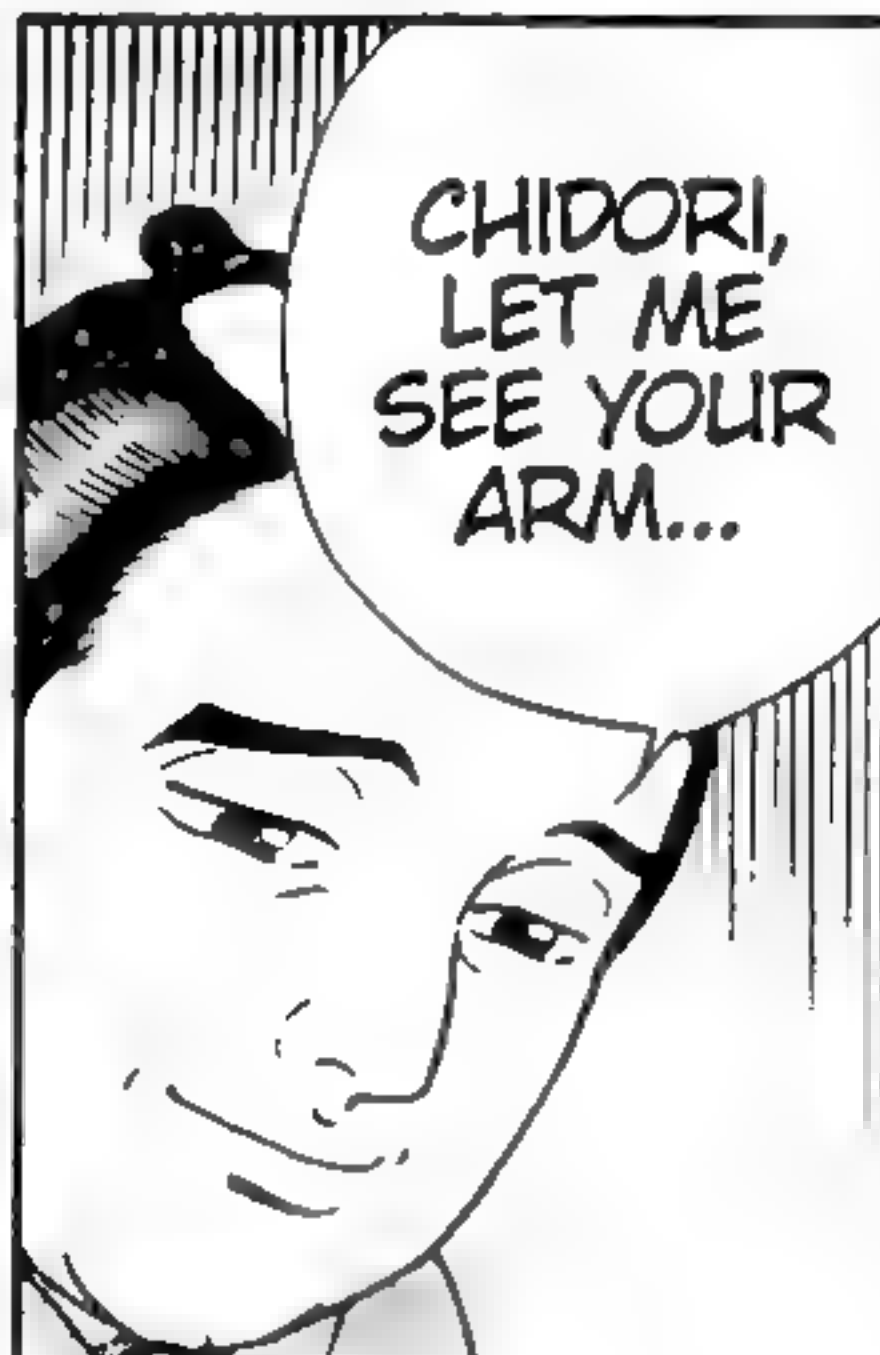


I'M SURE YOU KNOW  
ABOUT THE SLUMS OF  
YOSHIWARA CALLED  
THE "KASHI" THAT'S  
LOCATED ALONG THE  
OHAGURO DITCHES TO  
THE EAST AND WEST  
OF THE DISTRICT...

\*APPROXIMATELY 500 YEN (\$5)



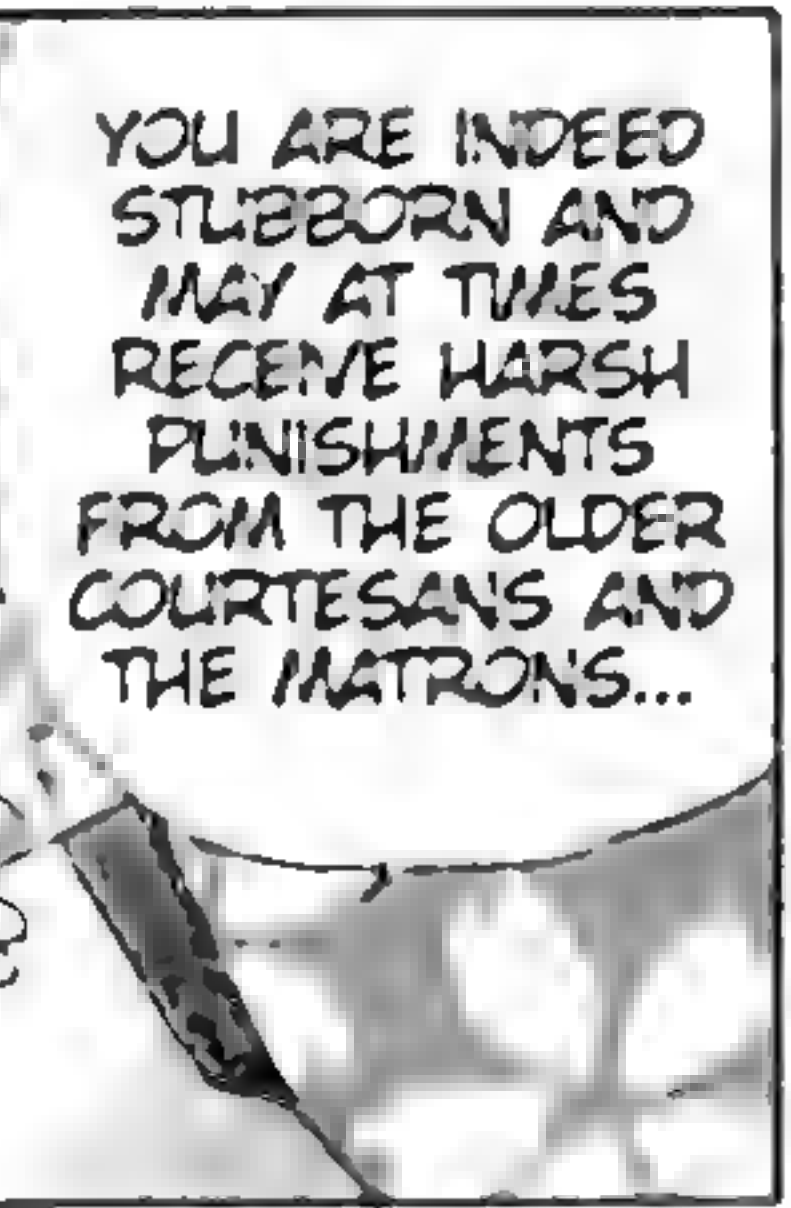
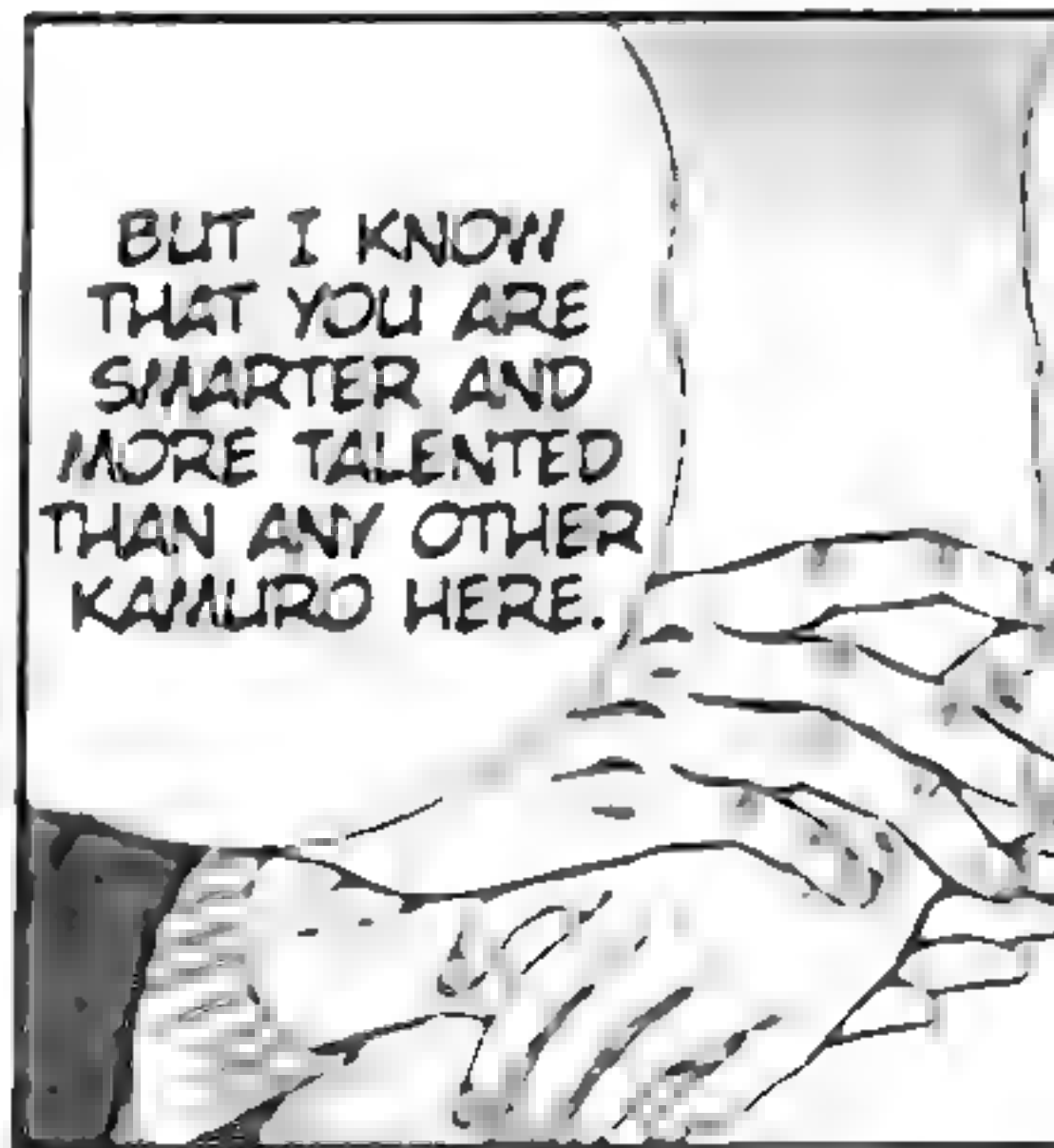
CHIDORI,  
LET ME  
SEE YOUR  
ARM...



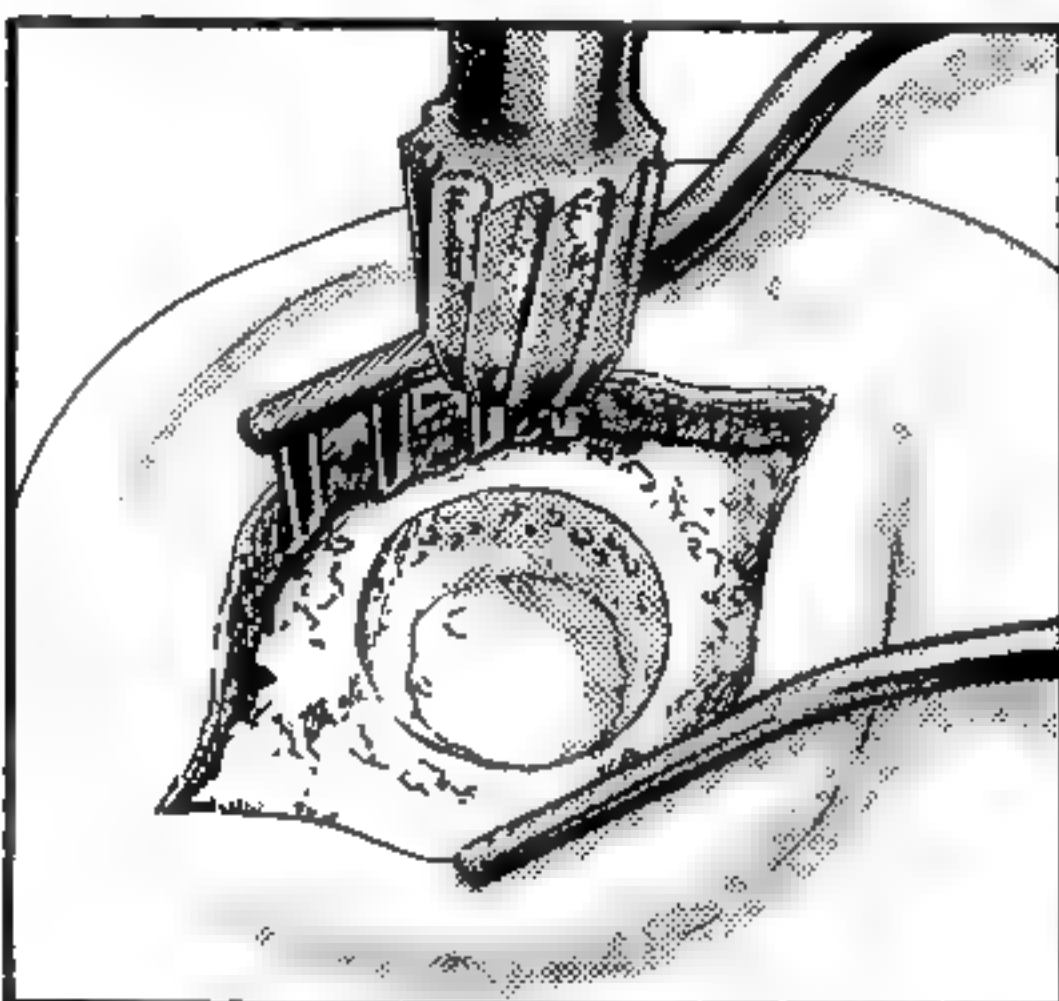
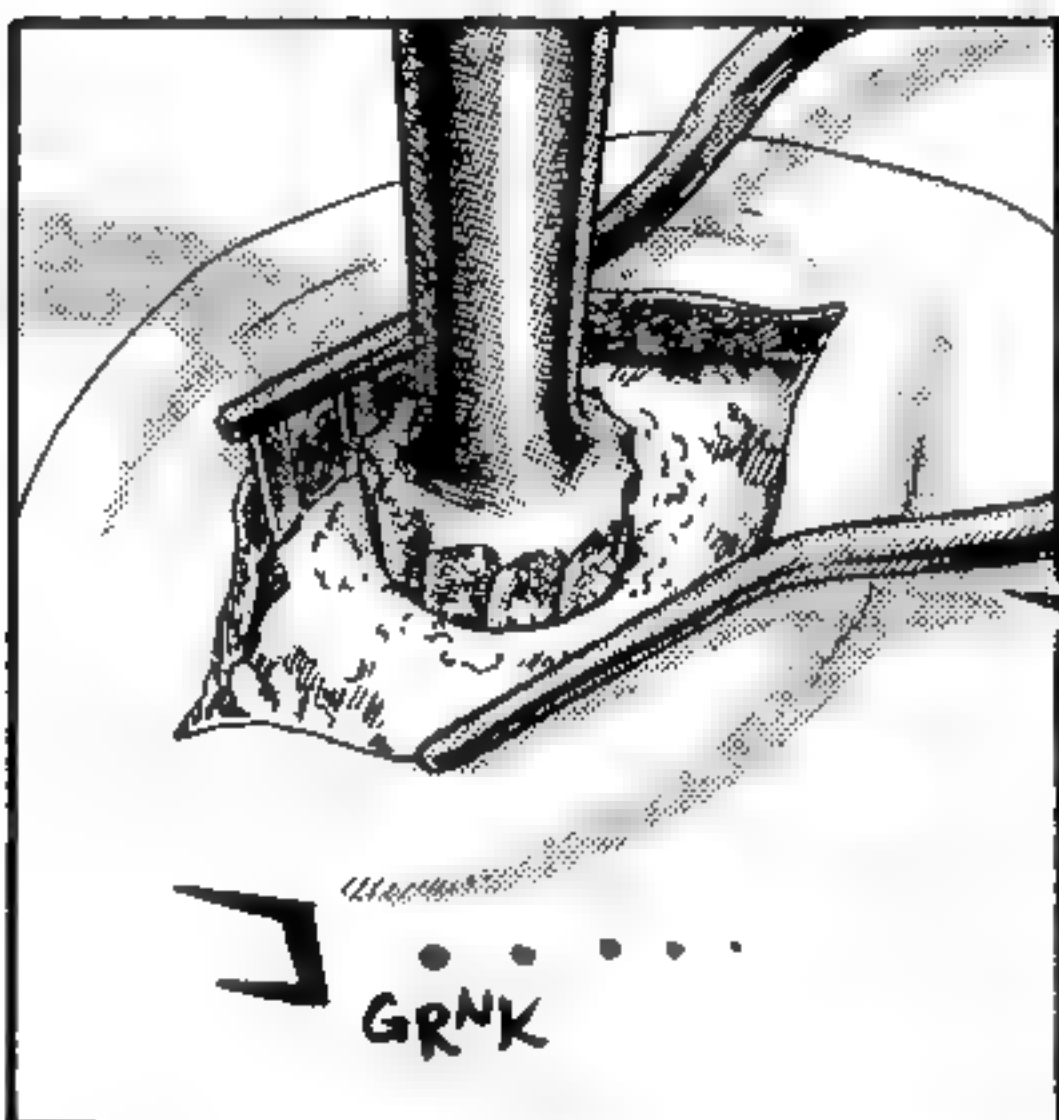
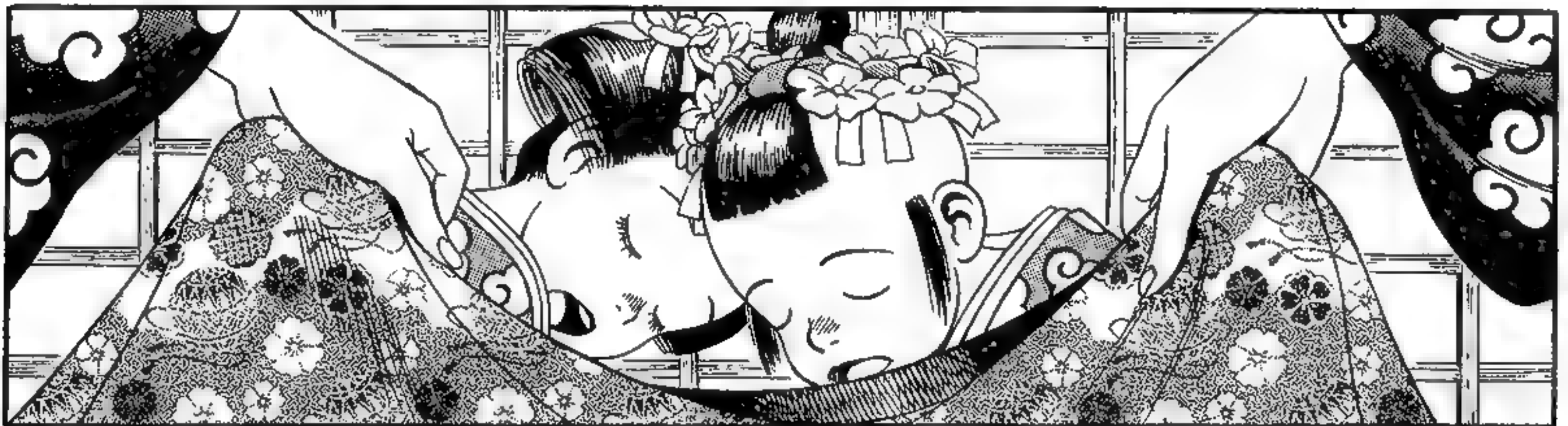
I DO...









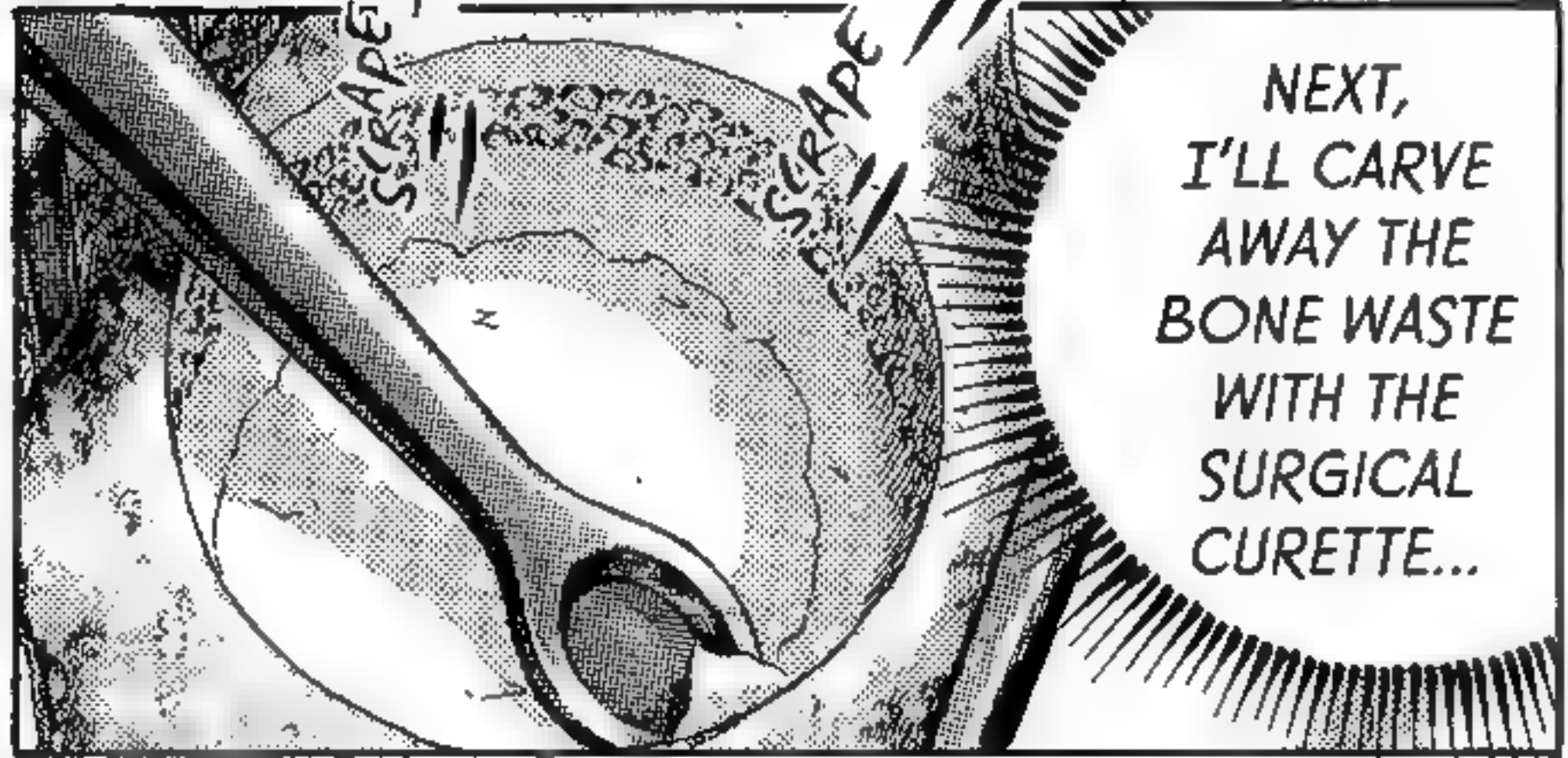






I'LL BURN A  
LIGHT X MARK  
WITH THE  
HEATED IRON  
CHOPSTICK...

FINALLY,  
I'M AT  
THE DURA  
MATER\*...

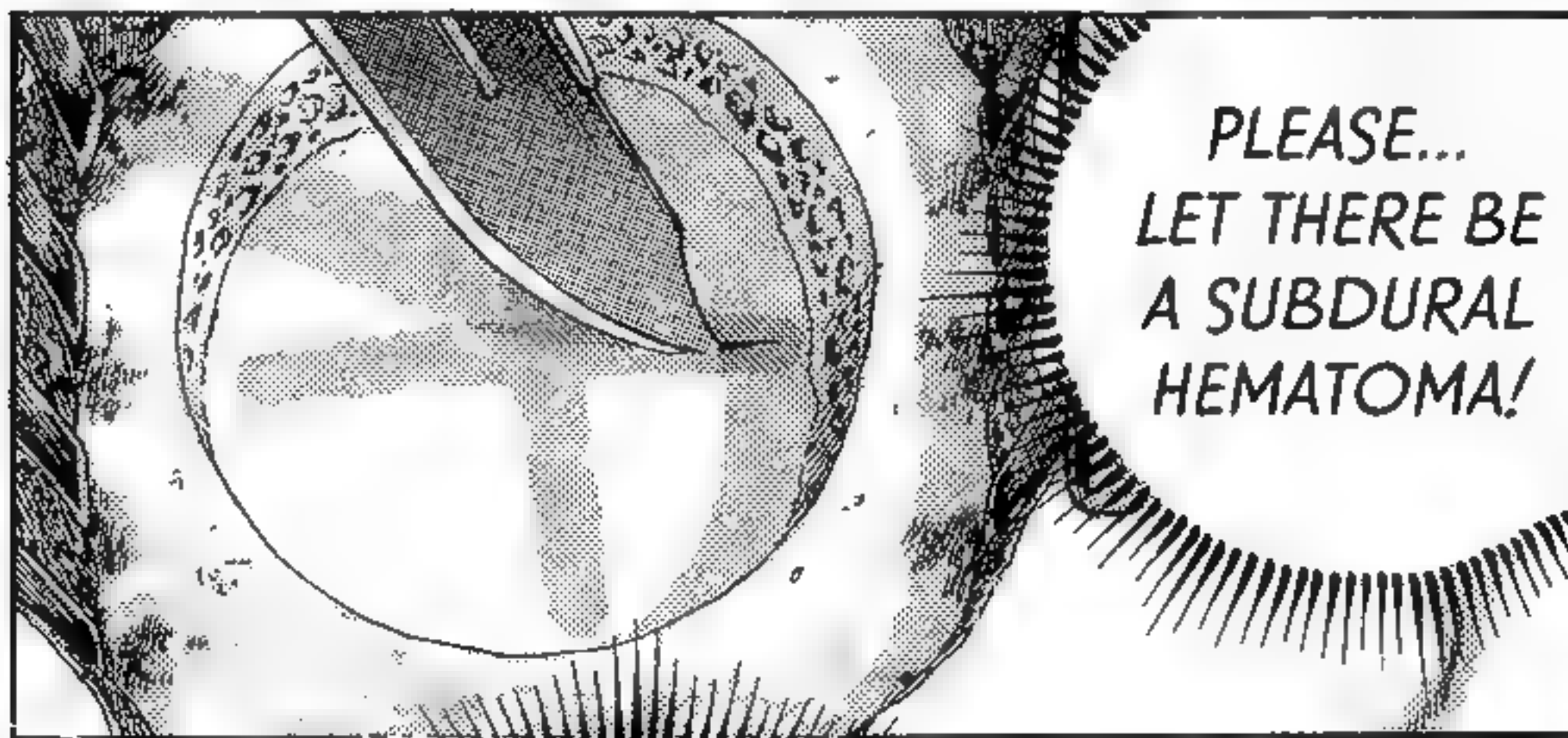


NEXT,  
I'LL CARVE  
AWAY THE  
BONE WASTE  
WITH THE  
SURGICAL  
CURETTE...

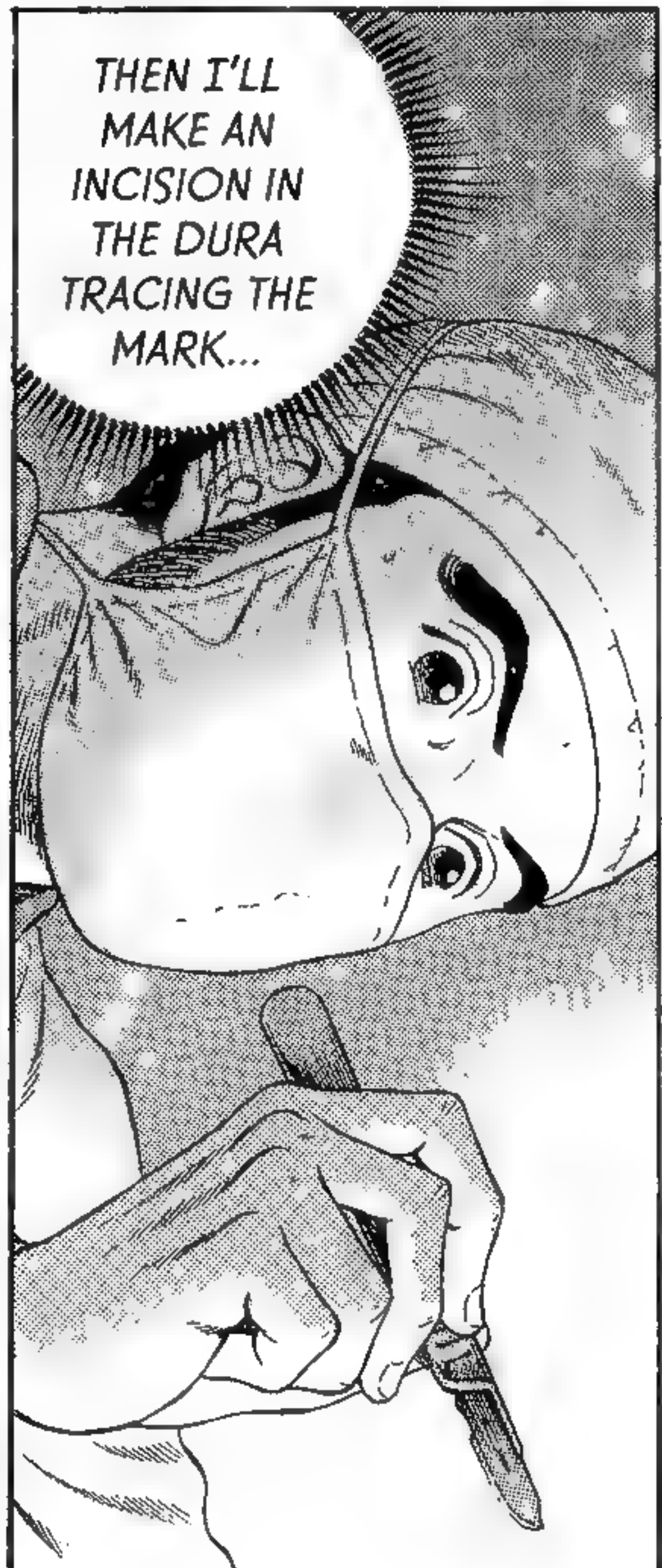


I'M  
TAKING TOO  
MUCH TIME...  
I NEED TO  
HURRY!

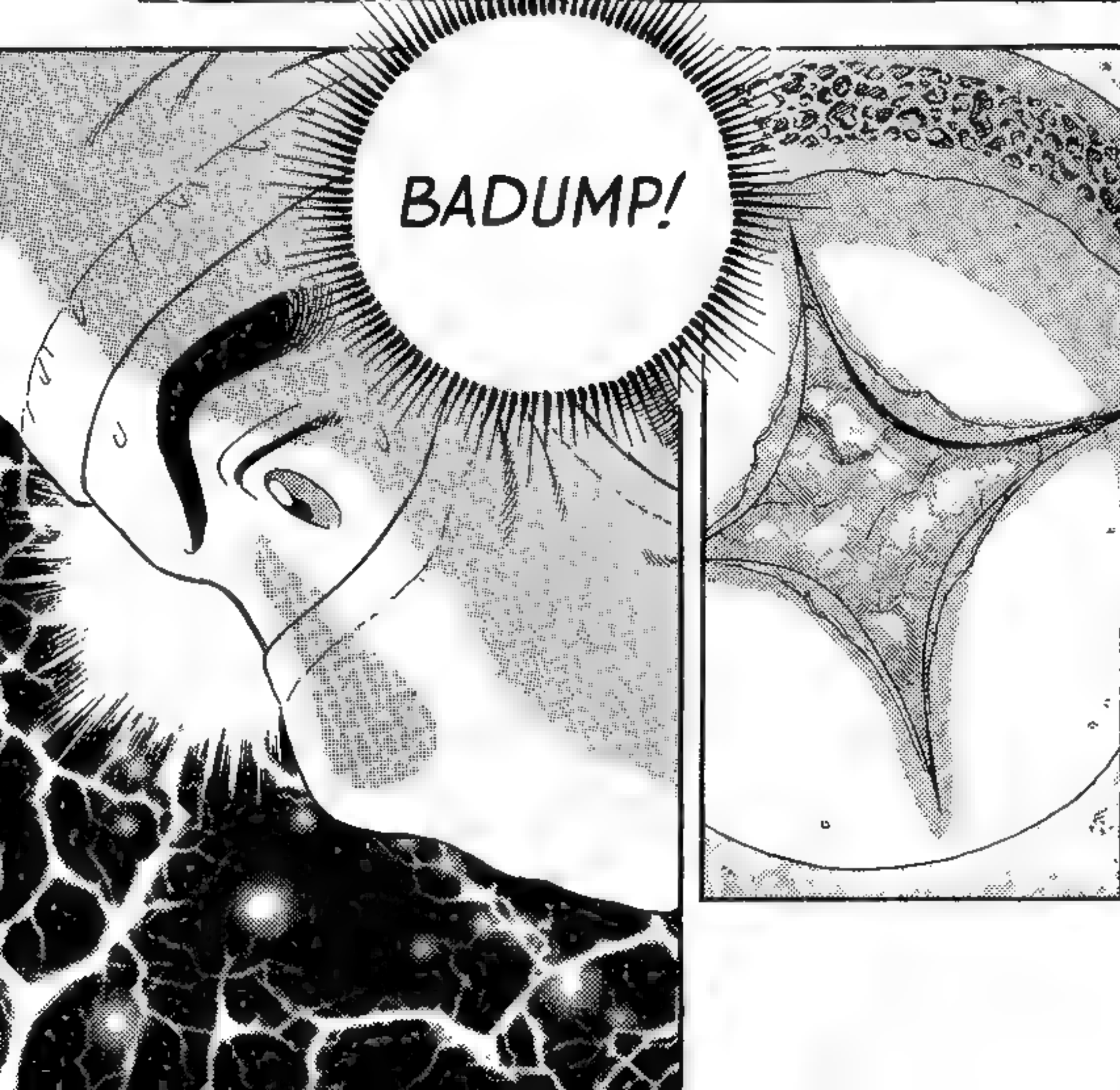
\*THE OLUTERMOST MEMBRANE THAT SURROUNDS THE BRAIN AND SPINAL CORD.



PLEASE...  
LET THERE BE  
A SUBDURAL  
HEMATOMA!

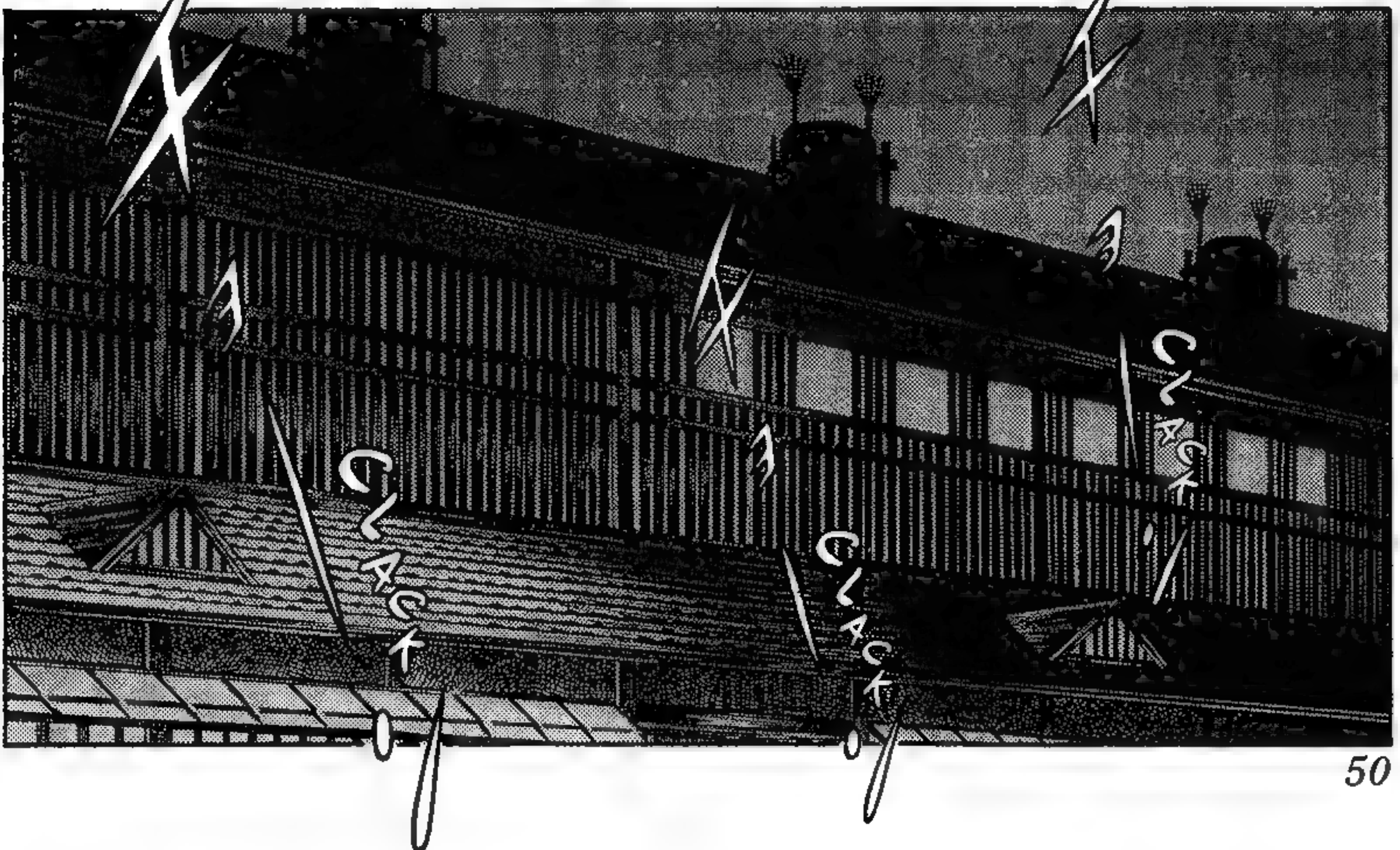


THEN I'LL  
MAKE AN  
INCISION IN  
THE DURA  
TRACING THE  
MARK...



**BADUMP!**













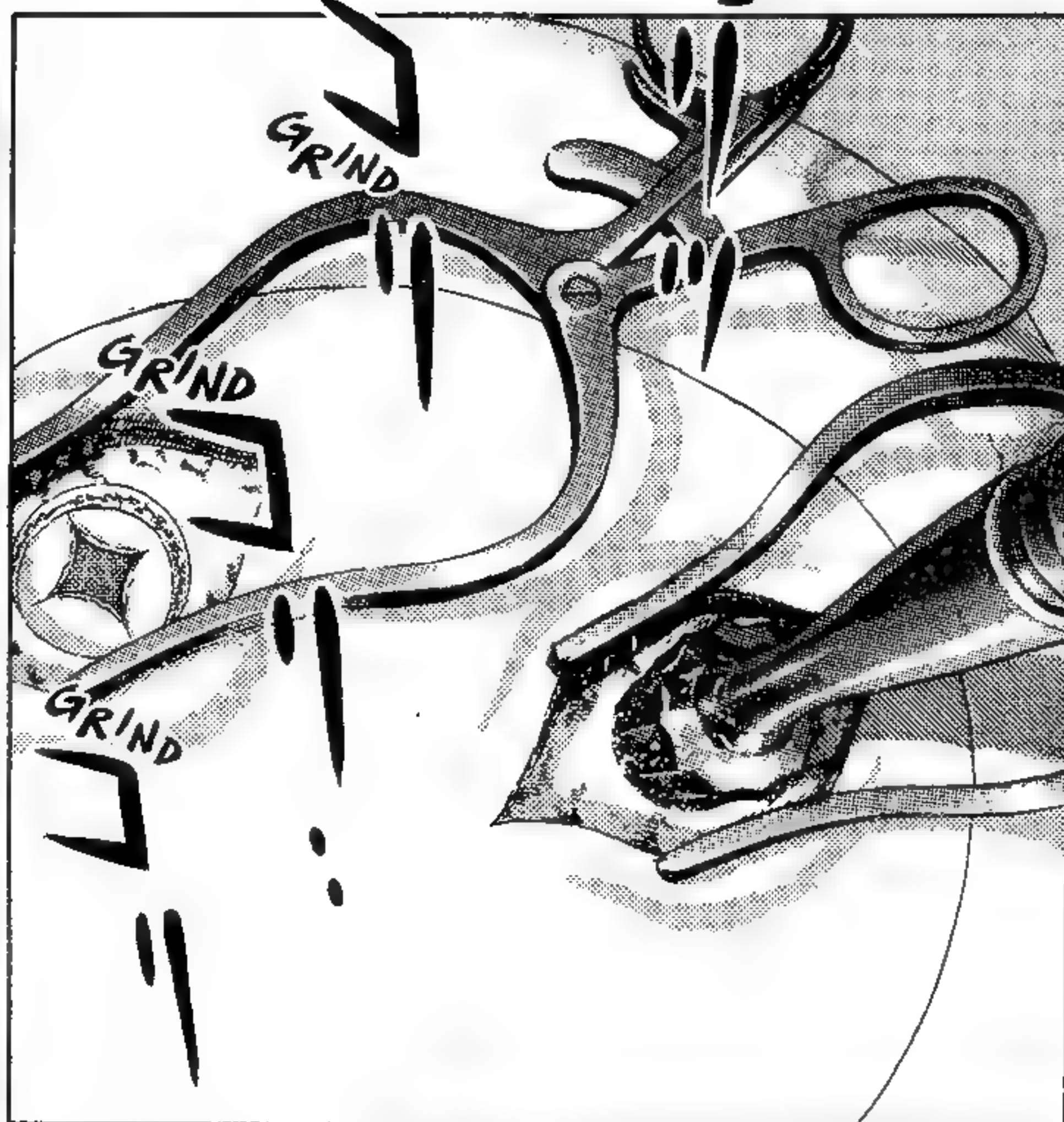
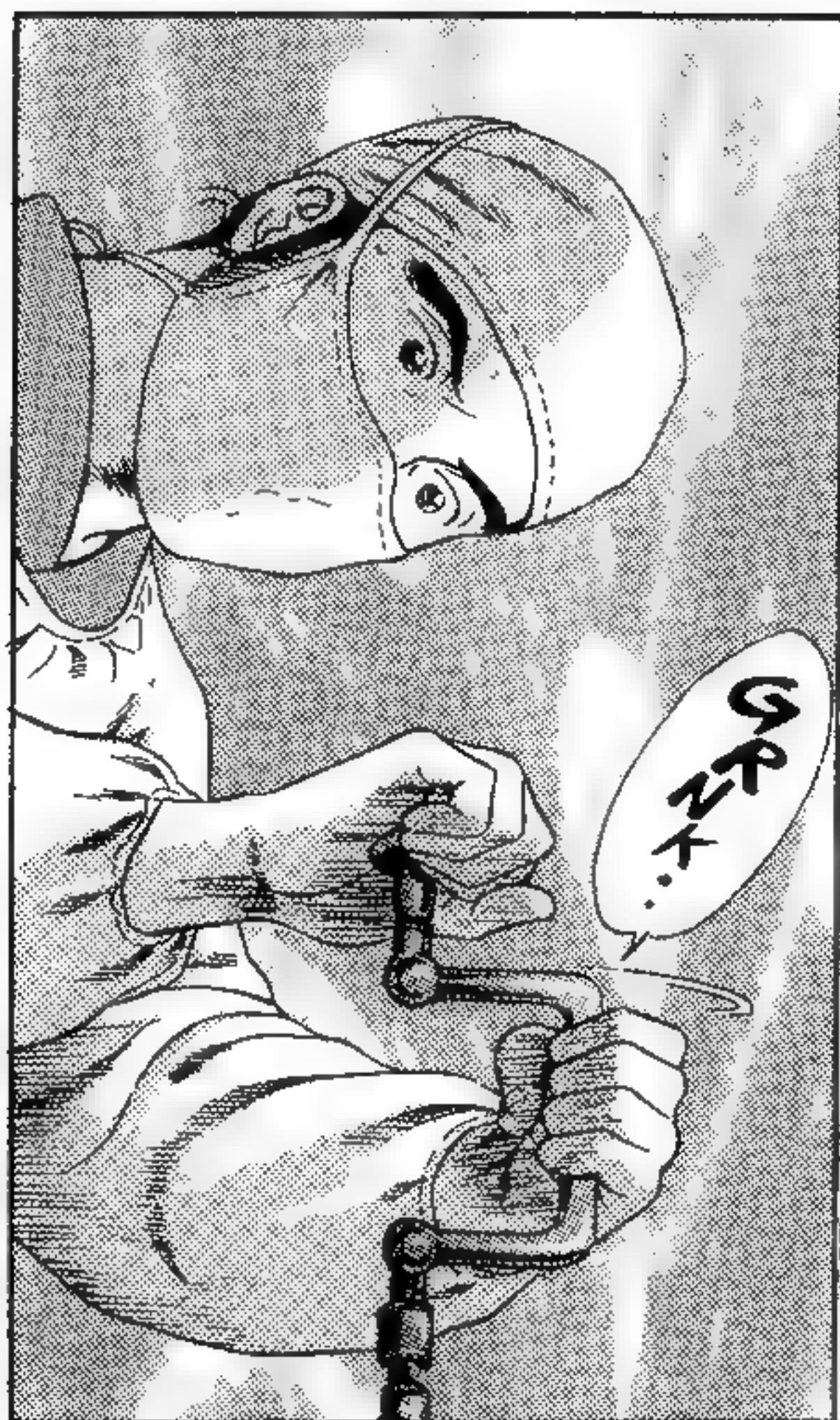




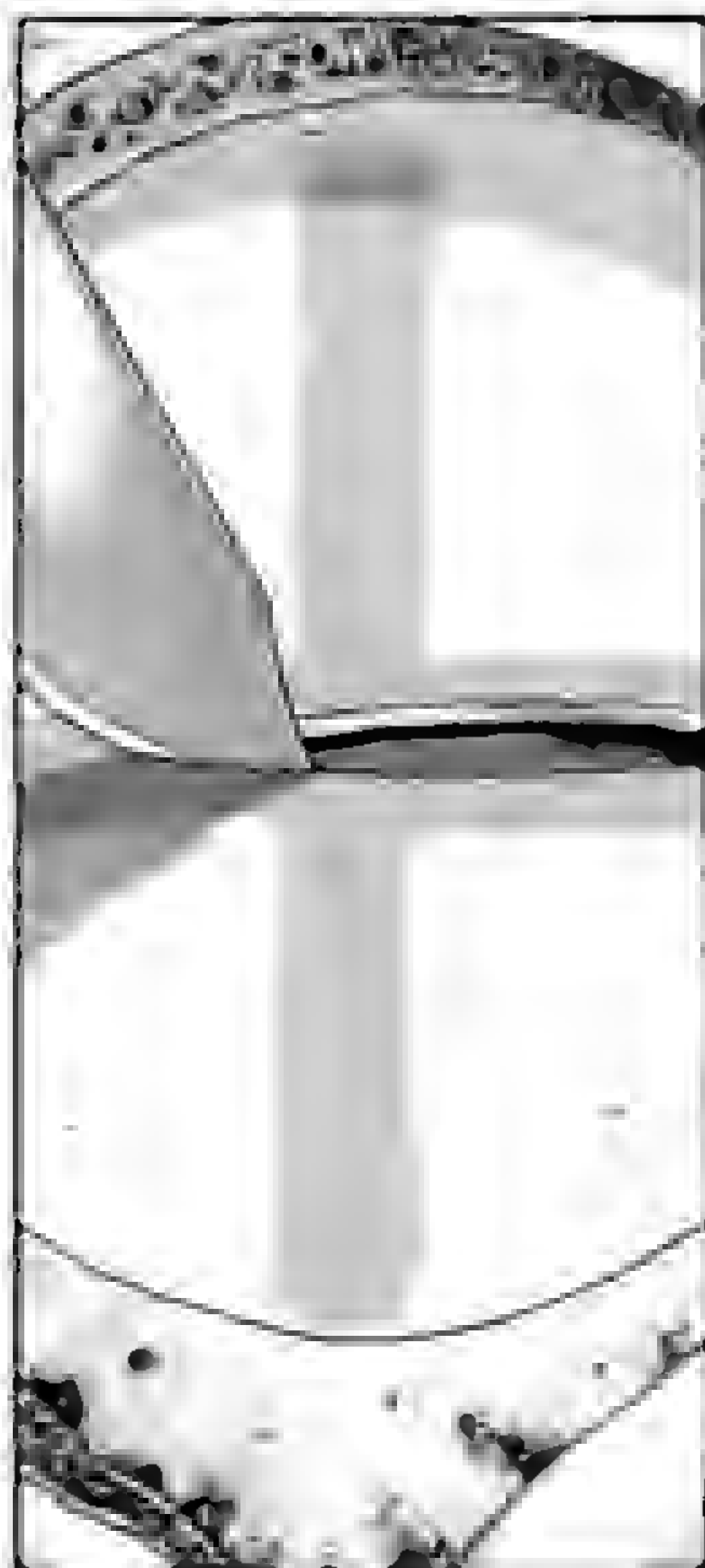
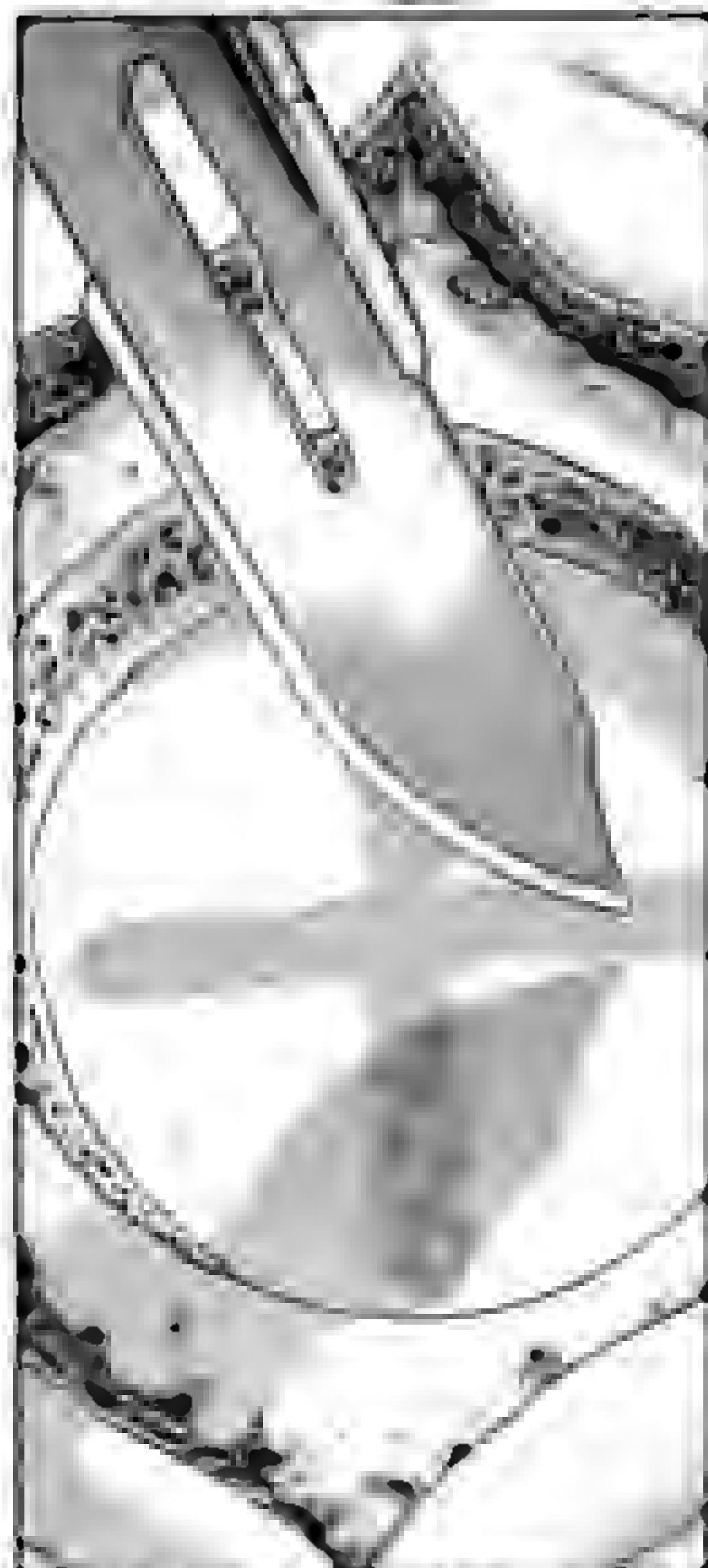
PLEASE...  
LET ME WAIT  
HERE WITH  
YOU...

I HAVE NO  
CUSTOMER  
TO SERVE  
TONIGHT...







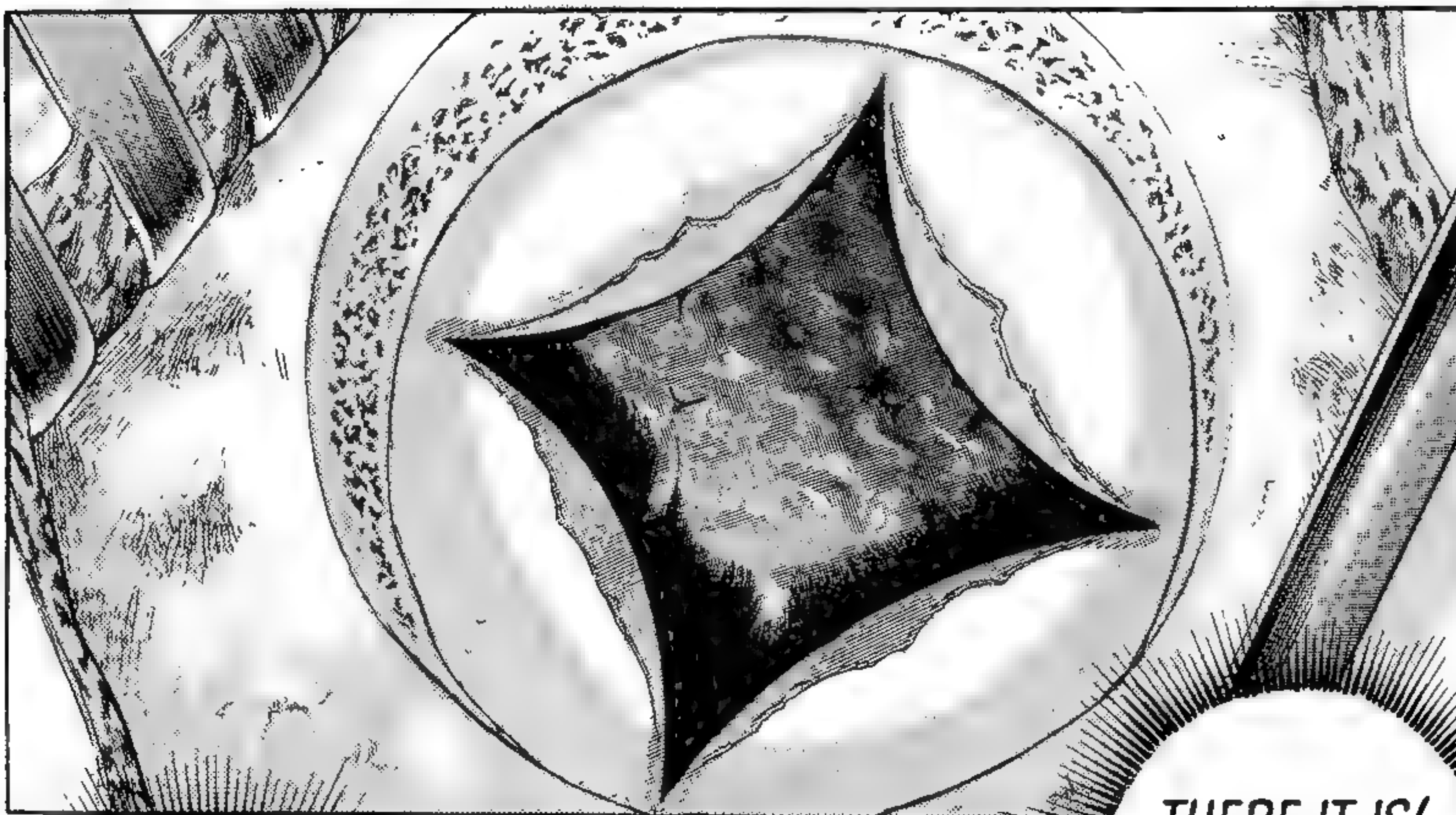


PLEASE  
LET THERE BE  
A SUBDURAL  
HEMATOMA!

THIS IS  
MY LAST  
CHANCE.

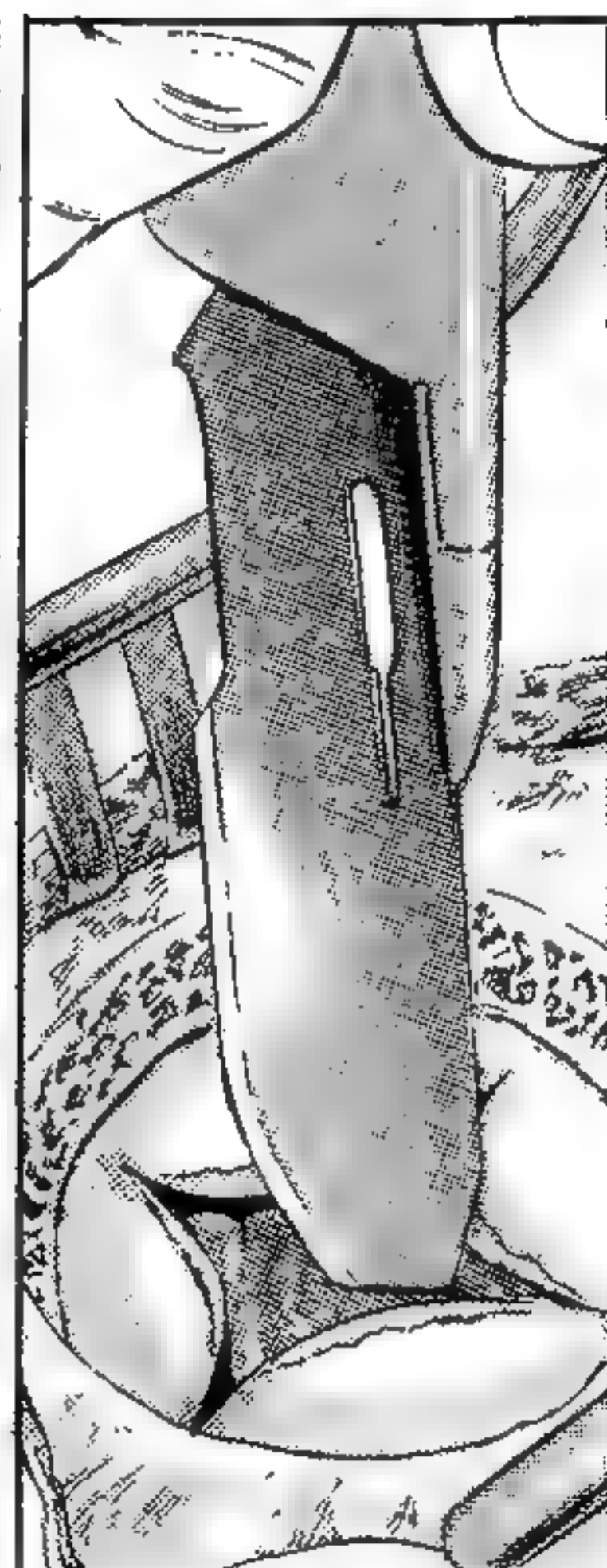






THERE IT IS!  
THAT'S THE  
HEMATOMA!

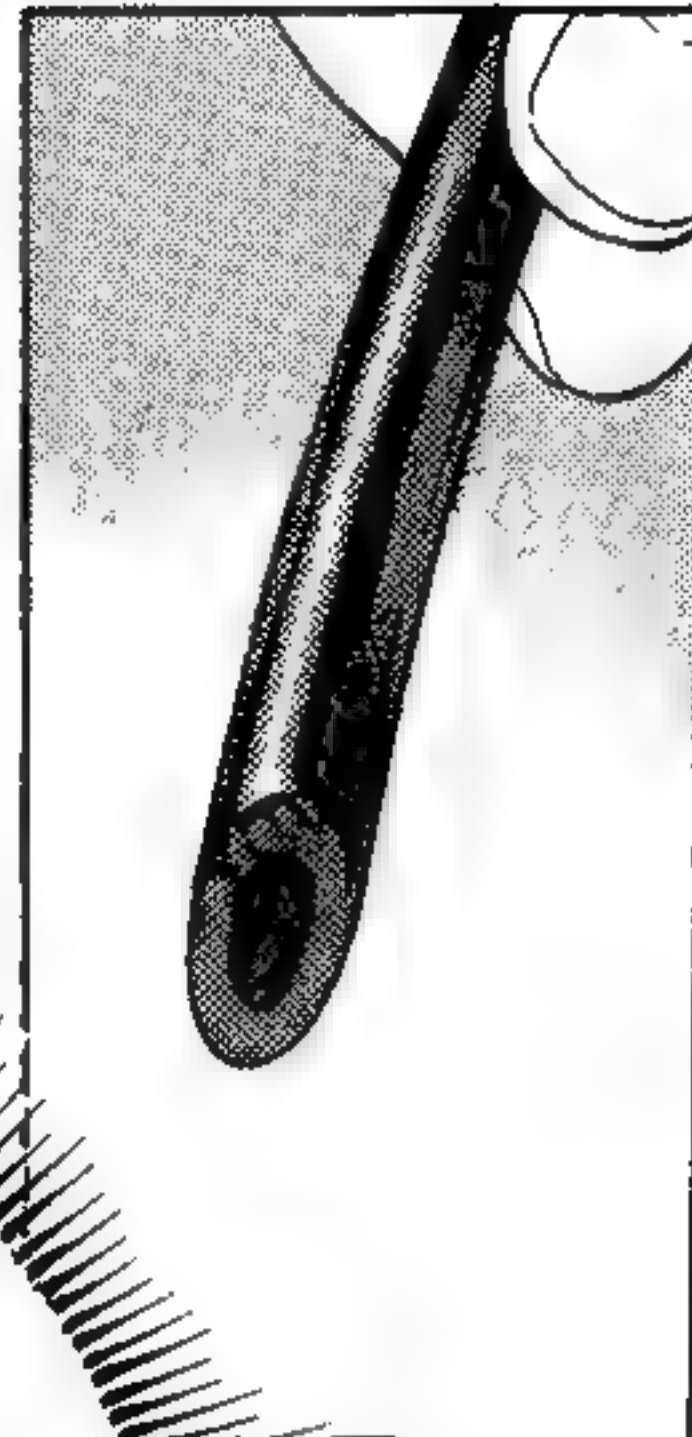
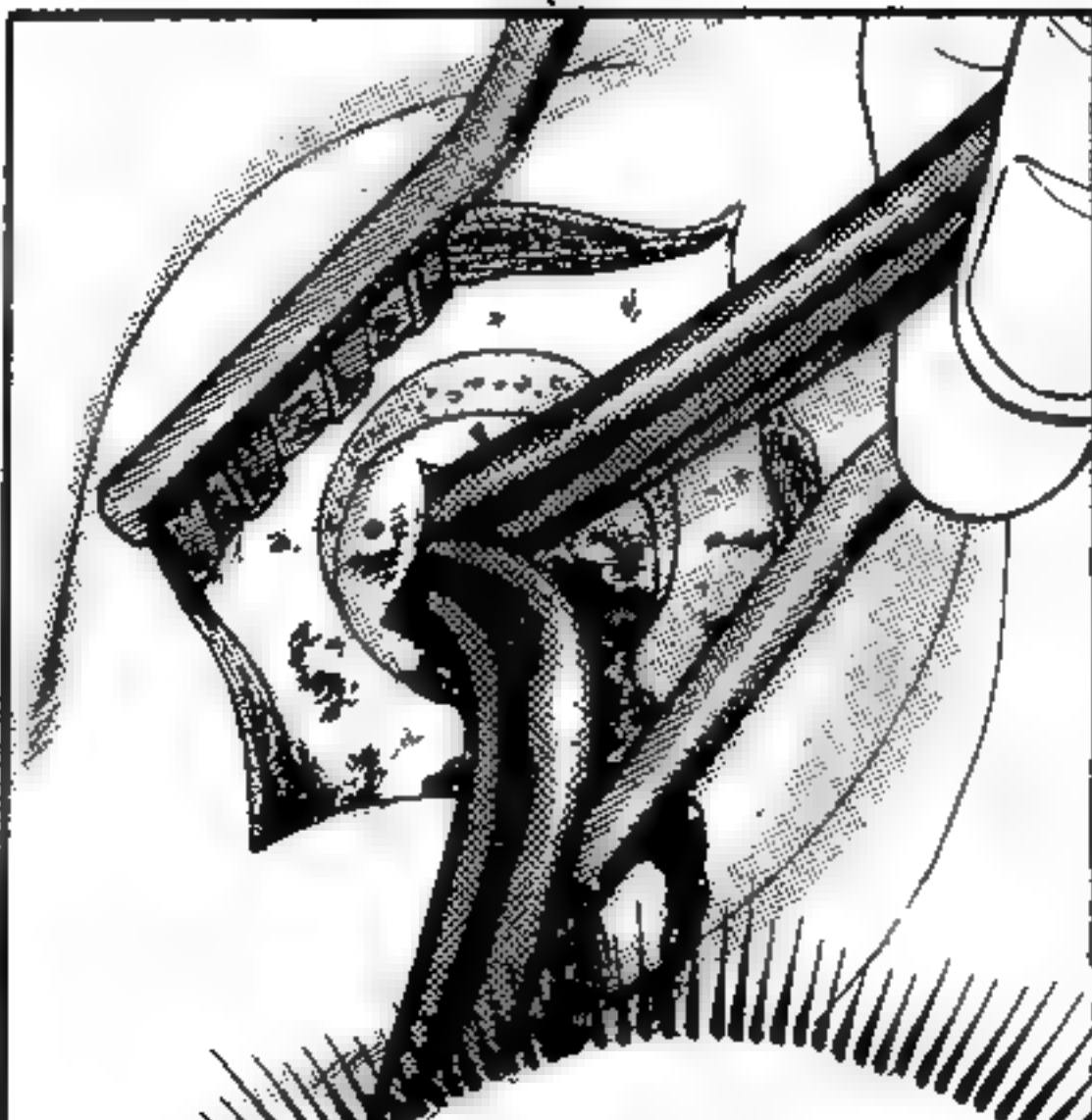
I KNEW IT...  
A CHRONIC  
SUBDURAL  
HEMATOMA!



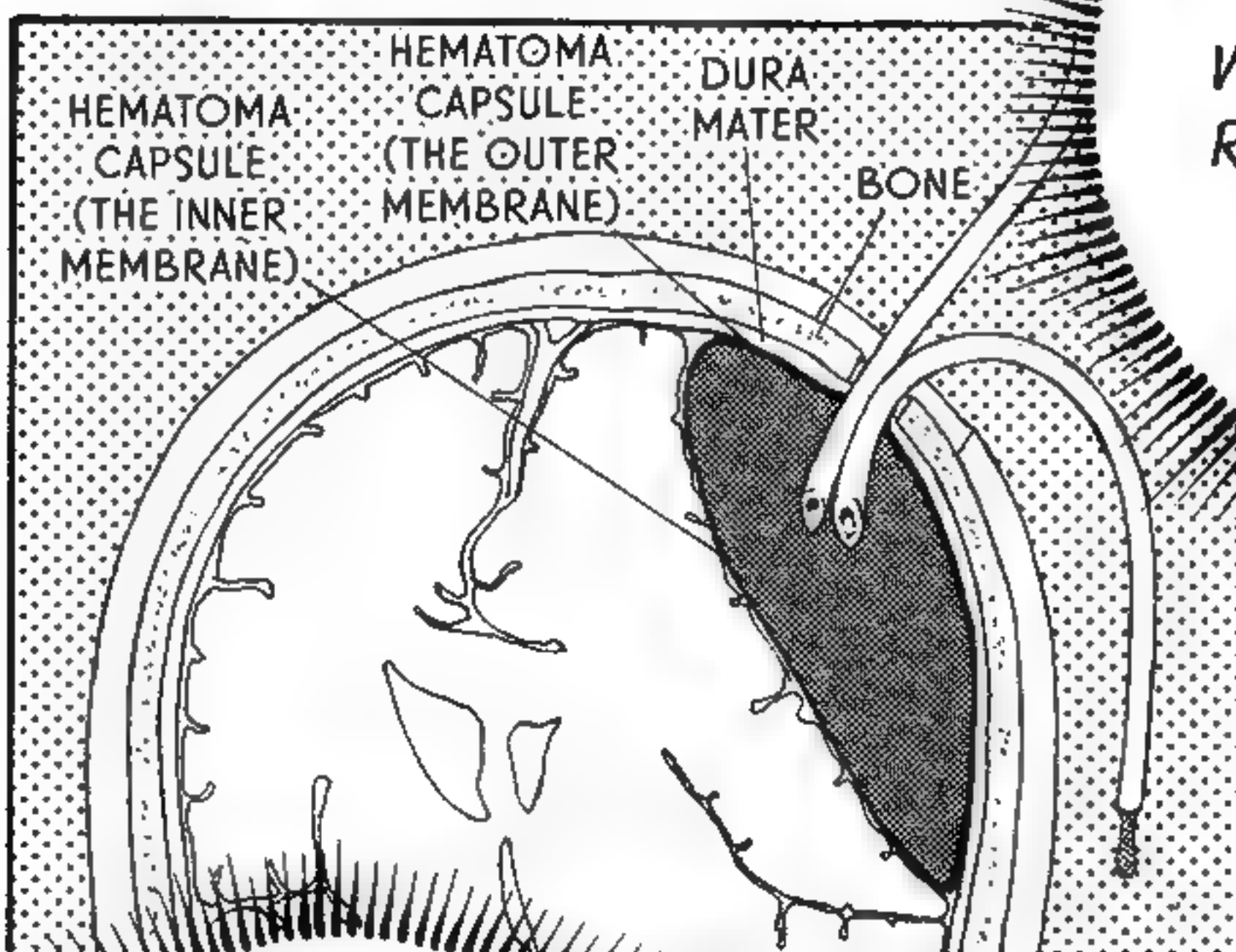




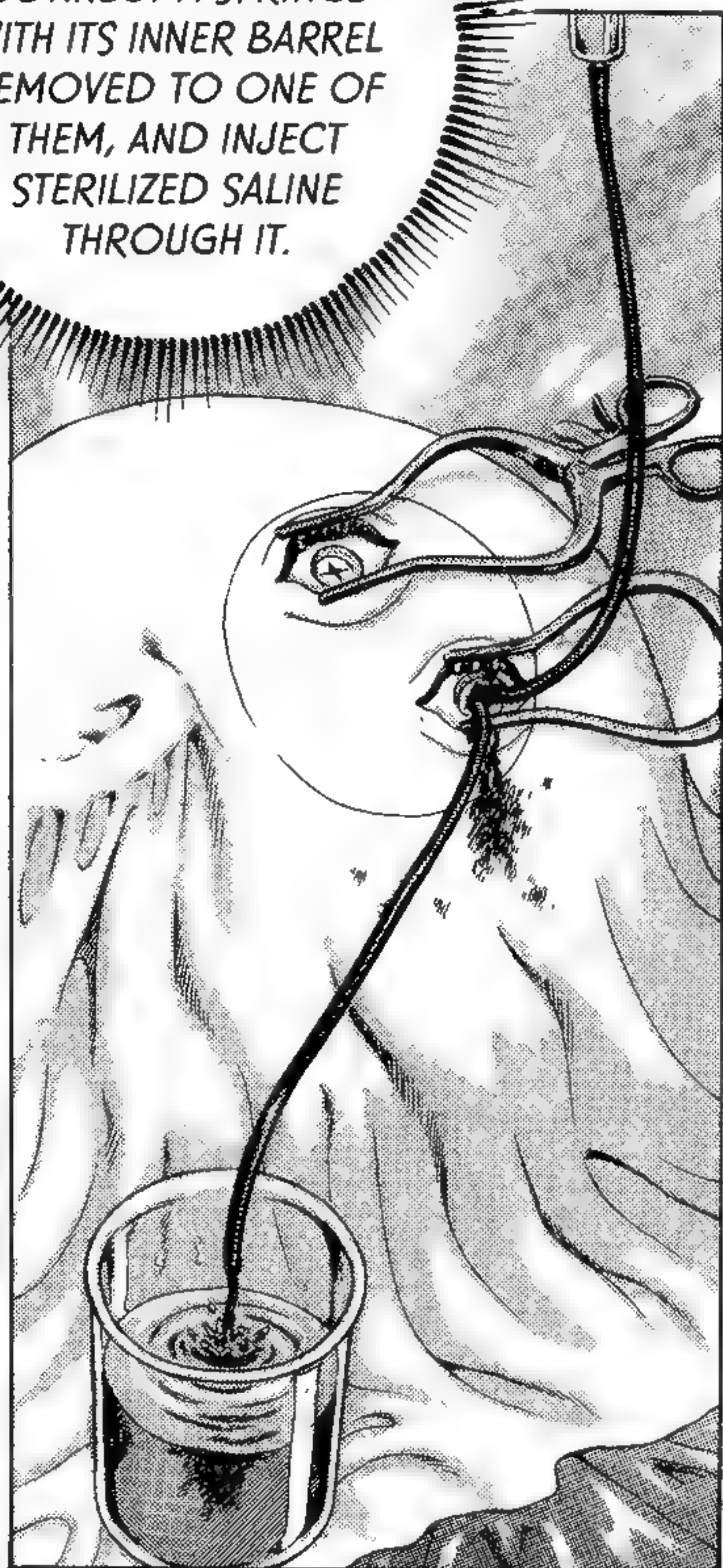
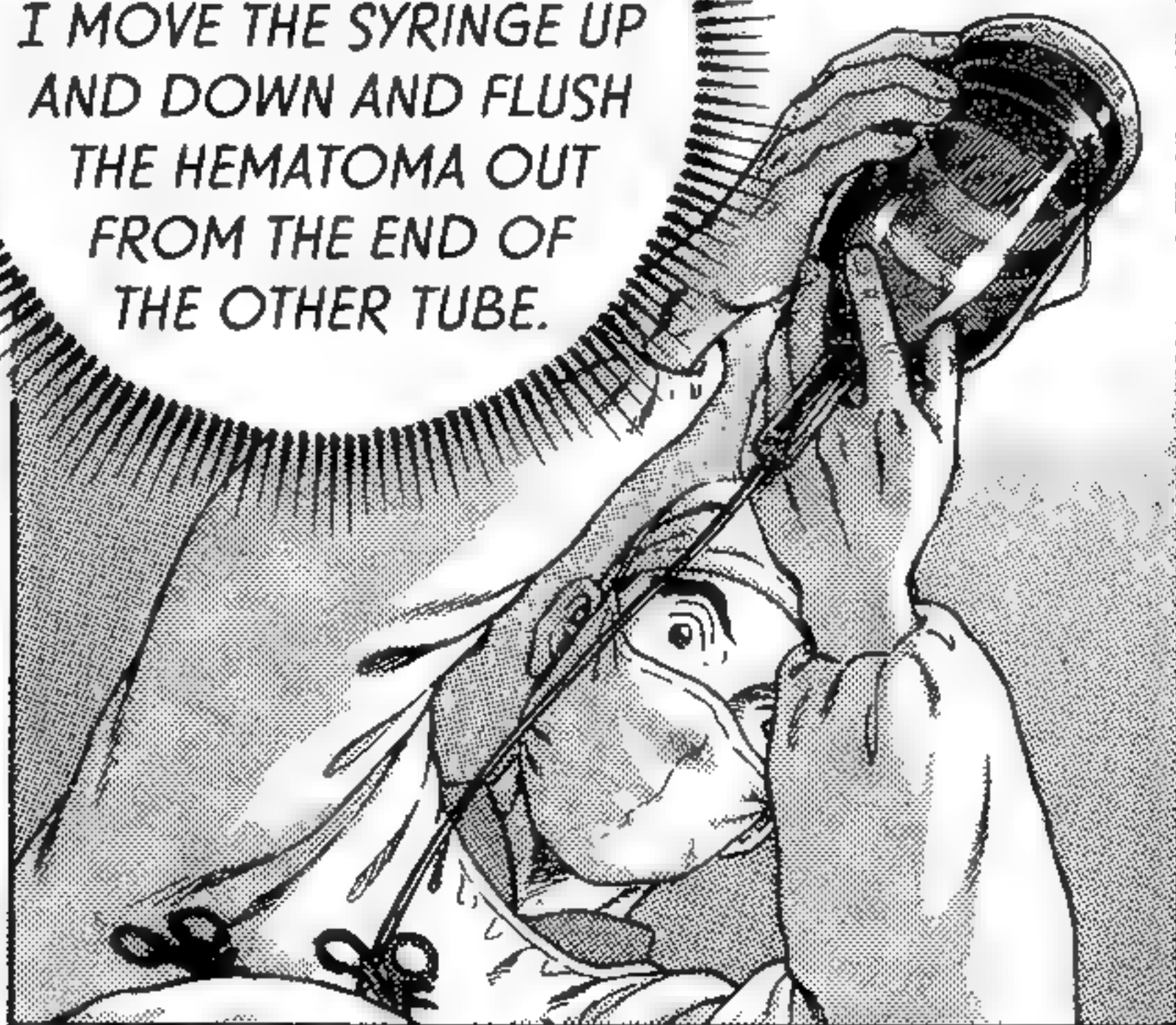




I INSERT TWO  
TUBES INTO THE HOLE,  
CONNECT A SYRINGE  
WITH ITS INNER BARREL  
REMOVED TO ONE OF  
THEM, AND INJECT  
STERILIZED SALINE  
THROUGH IT.



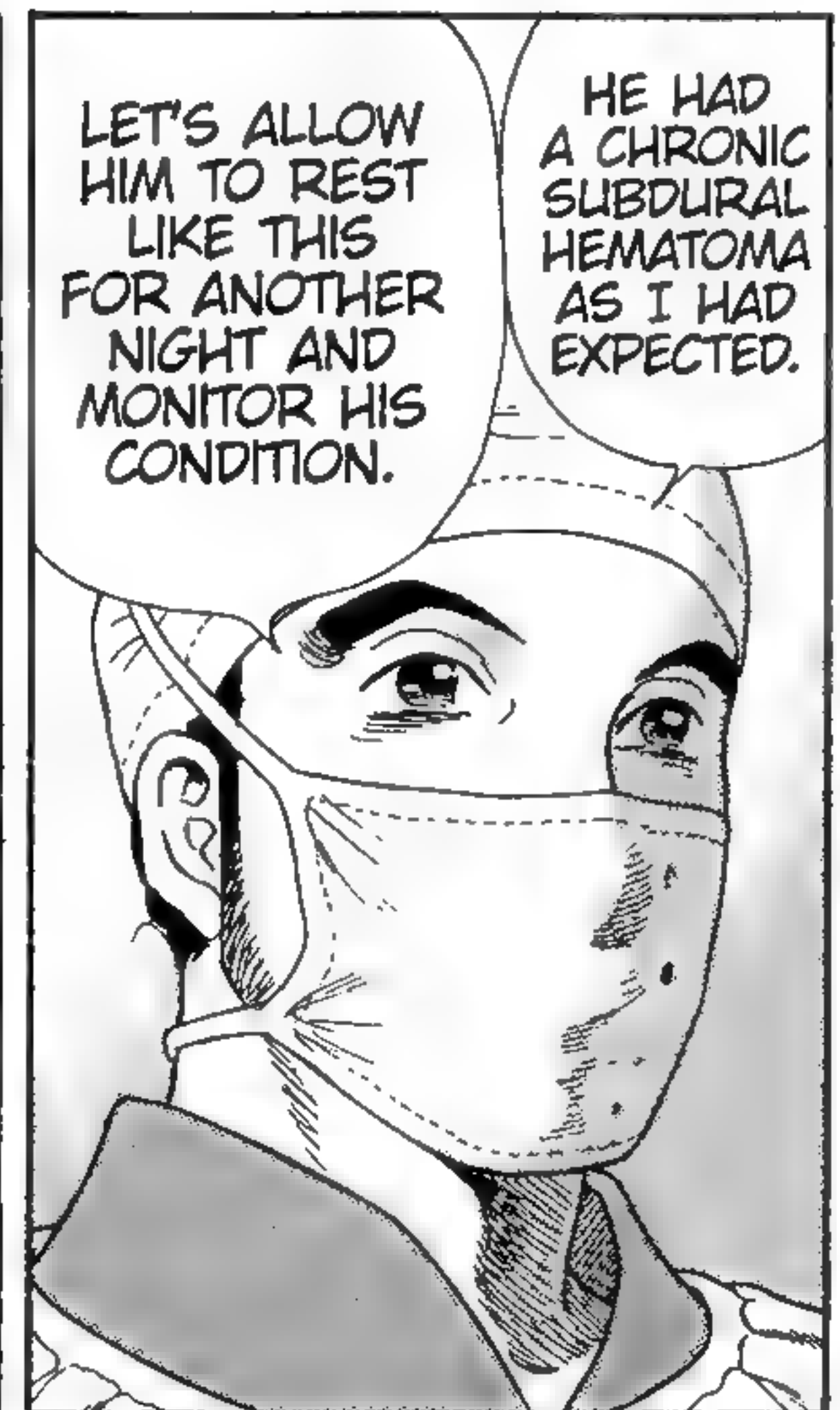
USING THE  
PRINCIPLE THAT A  
SIPHON OPERATES ON,  
I MOVE THE SYRINGE UP  
AND DOWN AND FLUSH  
THE HEMATOMA OUT  
FROM THE END OF  
THE OTHER TUBE.



















\*LEAVING THE DOMAIN OF ONE'S BIRTH WAS A BIG DEAL AT THIS TIME, ESPECIALLY FOR SAMURAI.

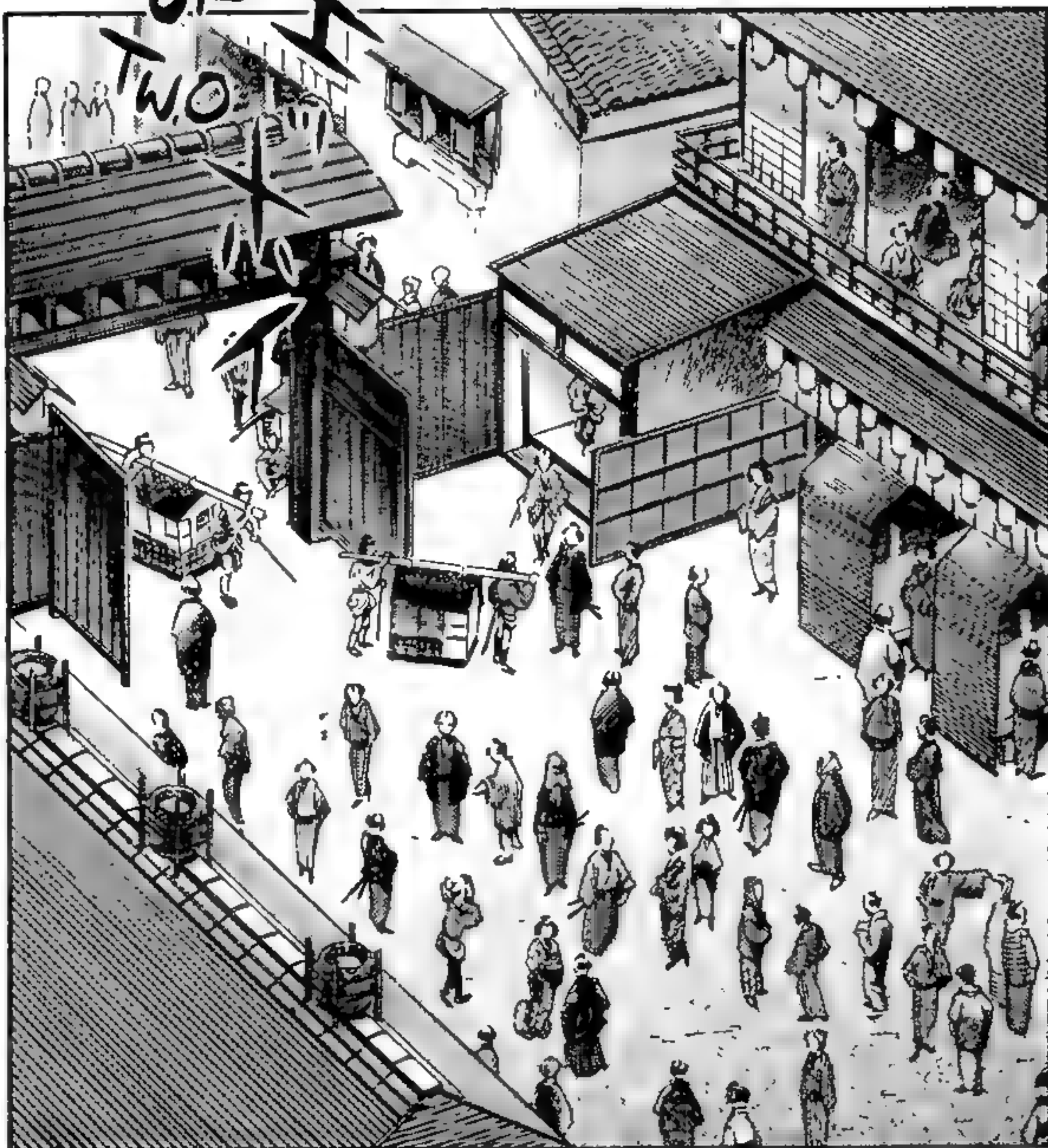
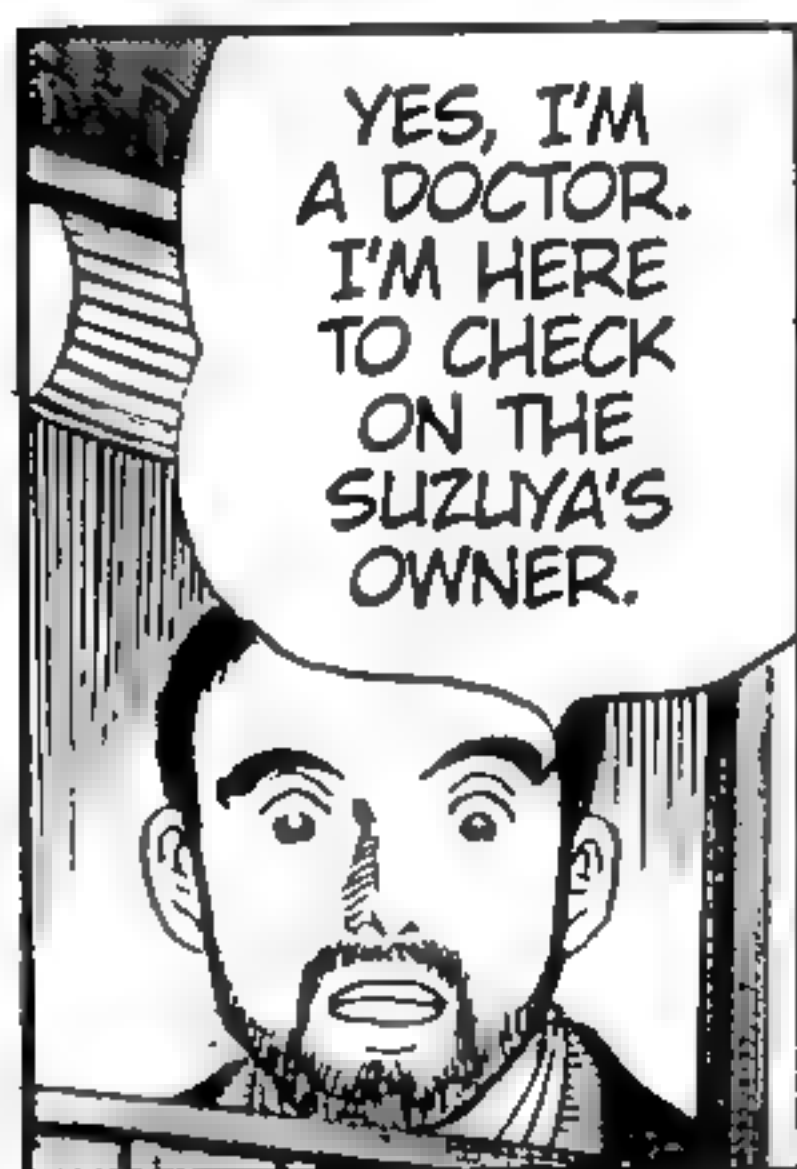
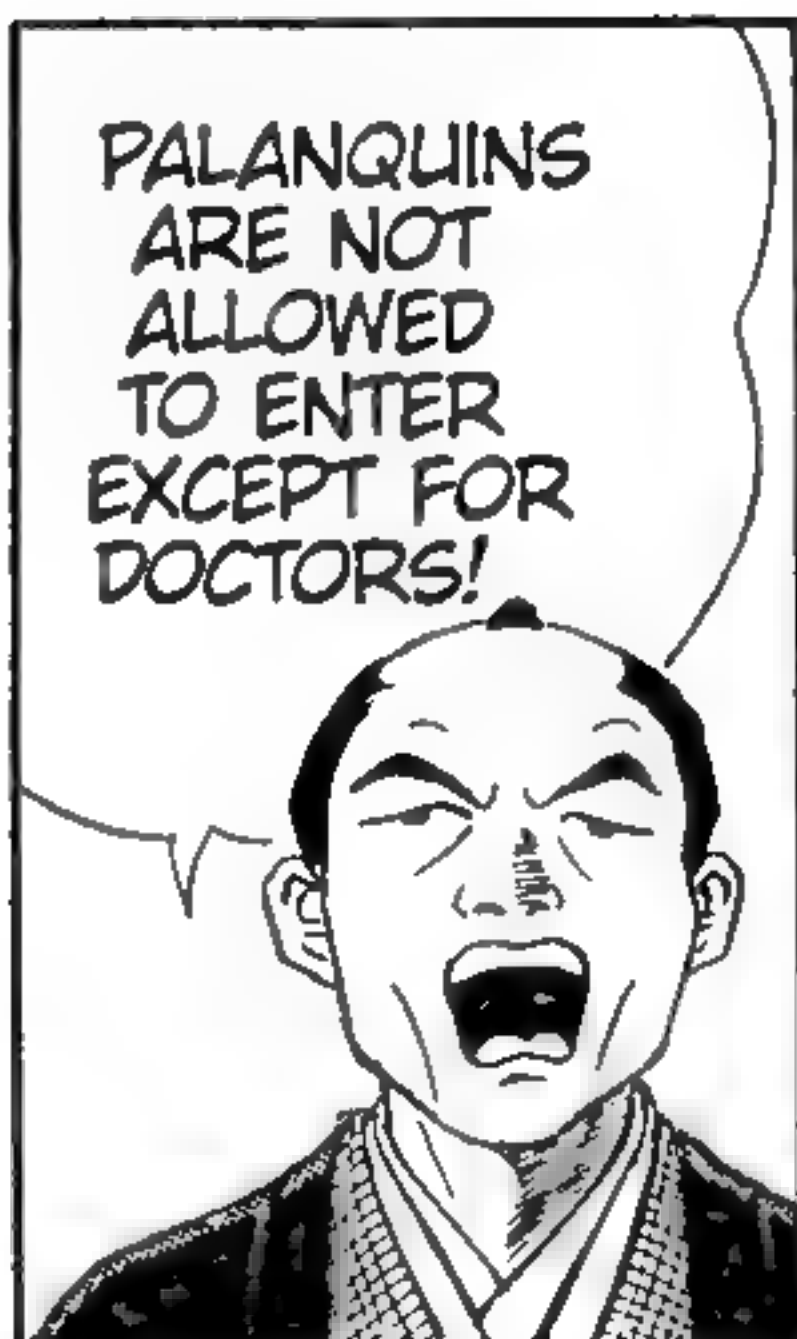








HUP  
TWO





\*IT WAS REQUIRED FOR WOMEN TO ATTAIN THIS PASS ISSUED BY TEA SHOPS TO ENTER YOSHIWARA.







I, HIKOSABURO  
SUZUYA, FEEL  
SO REFRESHED,  
IT'S LIKE I'VE  
BEEN REBORN!

WELL WELL,  
I'M IMPRESSED.  
COMPARED TO  
HOW DIMWITTED  
I WAS FEELING  
BEFORE, MY  
HEAD FEELS  
UNBELIEVABLY  
CLEAR NOW...



ALL YOU NEED  
TO DO IS DISIN-  
FECT THE WOUND  
EVERY FEW DAYS,  
AND YOU'LL BE  
ALL SET AFTER  
THE STITCHES  
ARE REMOVED  
NEXT WEEK.

IT SEEMS  
THAT THE  
HEMATOMA  
HAS BEEN  
COMPLETELY  
DRAINED...



WELL,  
YES...  
YOU'RE  
RIGHT.

BUT YOSHIWARA  
IS SO GORGEOUS  
AND FILLED WITH  
BEAUTIFUL LADIES  
THAT IT'S JUST  
LIKE THE PALACE  
OF THE DRAGON\*.

MOTHER ALWAYS  
SAYS IT'S SUCH A  
TERRIBLE PLACE,  
SO I WONDERED  
WHAT IT'S LIKE...

\*A FICTIONAL UNDERSEA PALACE KNOWN FOR BEING LUXURIOUS  
AND GORGEOUS IN JAPANESE FOLKTALES SUCH AS "URASHIMATARO."







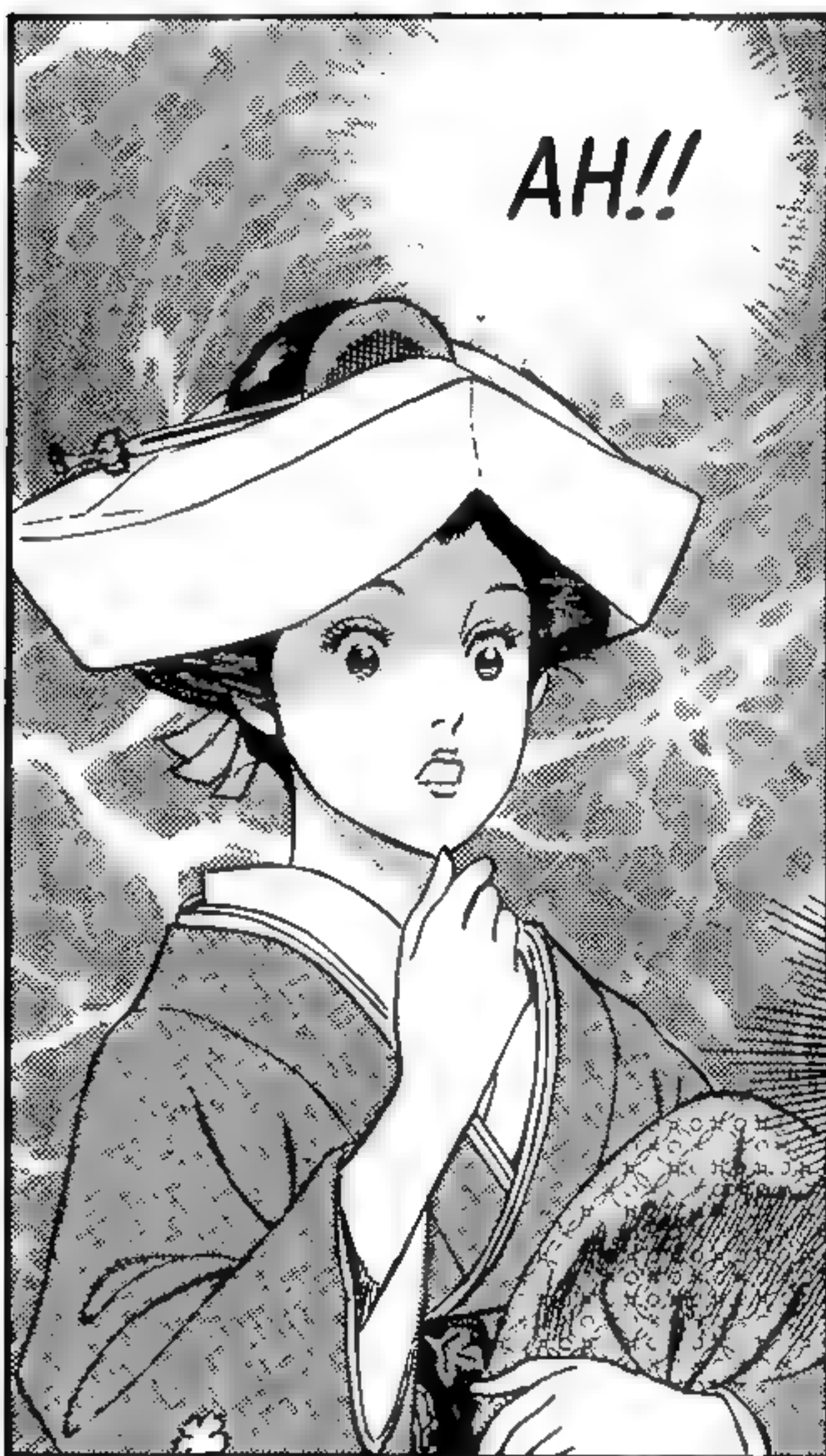


SISTER...  
ARE YOU  
AWAKE?



OH...  
NOKAZE...  
IS THAT  
YOU?

WHO  
IS IT...?



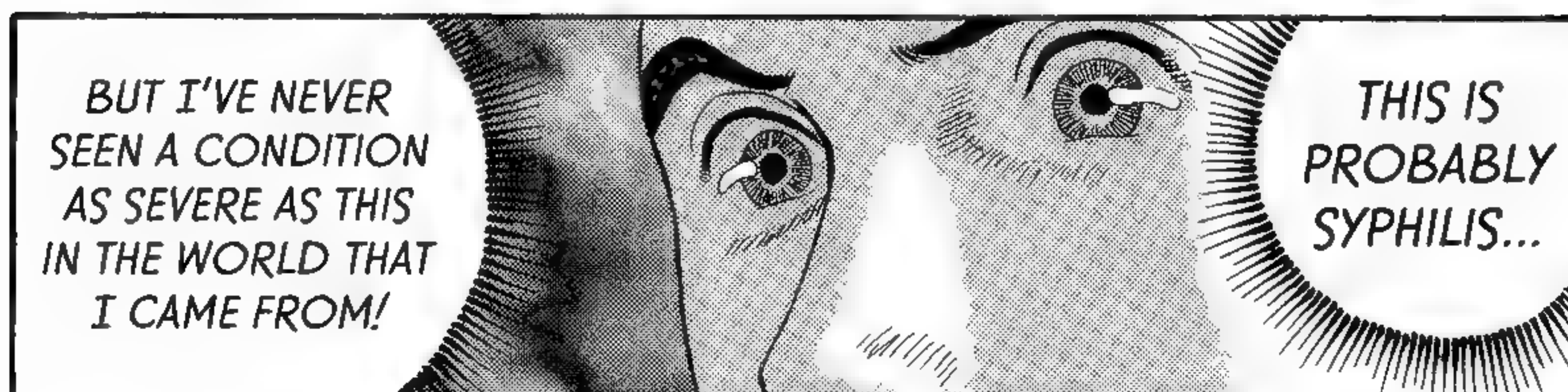
AH!!



BADUMP!



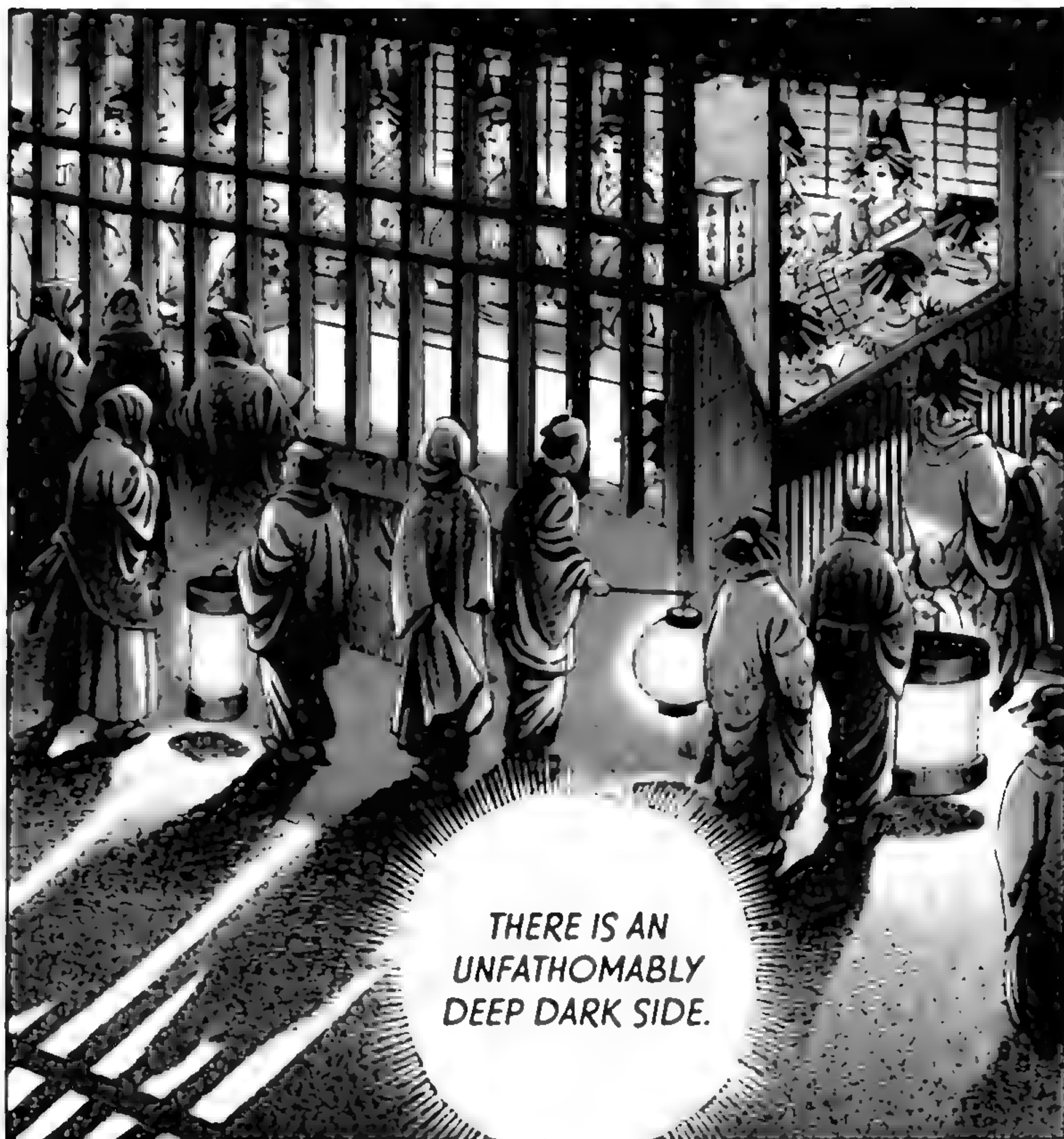






BEHIND THE  
GLORY OF  
YOSHIWARA...

I WAS SO  
CARELESS  
THAT I ONLY  
REALIZED IT  
NOW.



THERE IS AN  
UNFATHOMABLY  
DEEP DARK SIDE.





COURTESANS  
COMPETE WITH  
THEIR GLAMOUR  
TO DAZZLE MEN  
IN YOSHIWARA,  
THE LUXURIOUS,  
GORGEOUS RED  
LIGHT DISTRICT.

DEPTH  
CHAPTER  
PART 1:  
SYPHILIS



# DEPTH CHAPTER PART 1: SYPHILIS

I SAW IT IN  
THE DARKNESS  
BEHIND THOSE  
BRIGHT LIGHTS







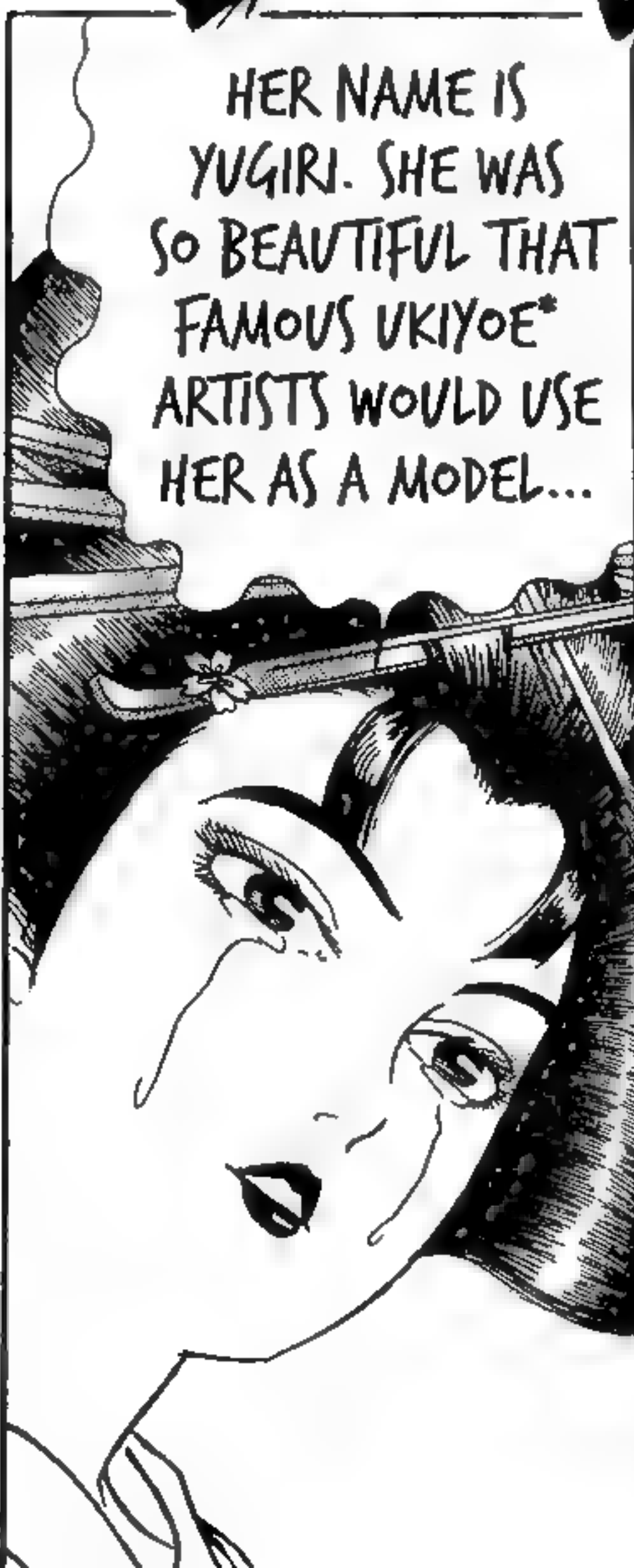












\*WOODBLOCK PRINT AND PAINTING ART THAT BECAME POPULAR DURING THE 17TH CENTURY OF JAPAN. WHEN IT CAME TO ART OF BEAUTIFUL WOMEN, COURTESANS WERE A SUITABLE MODEL AS THEY WERE THE PERFECT IMAGE OF BEAUTY AND ALLURE.



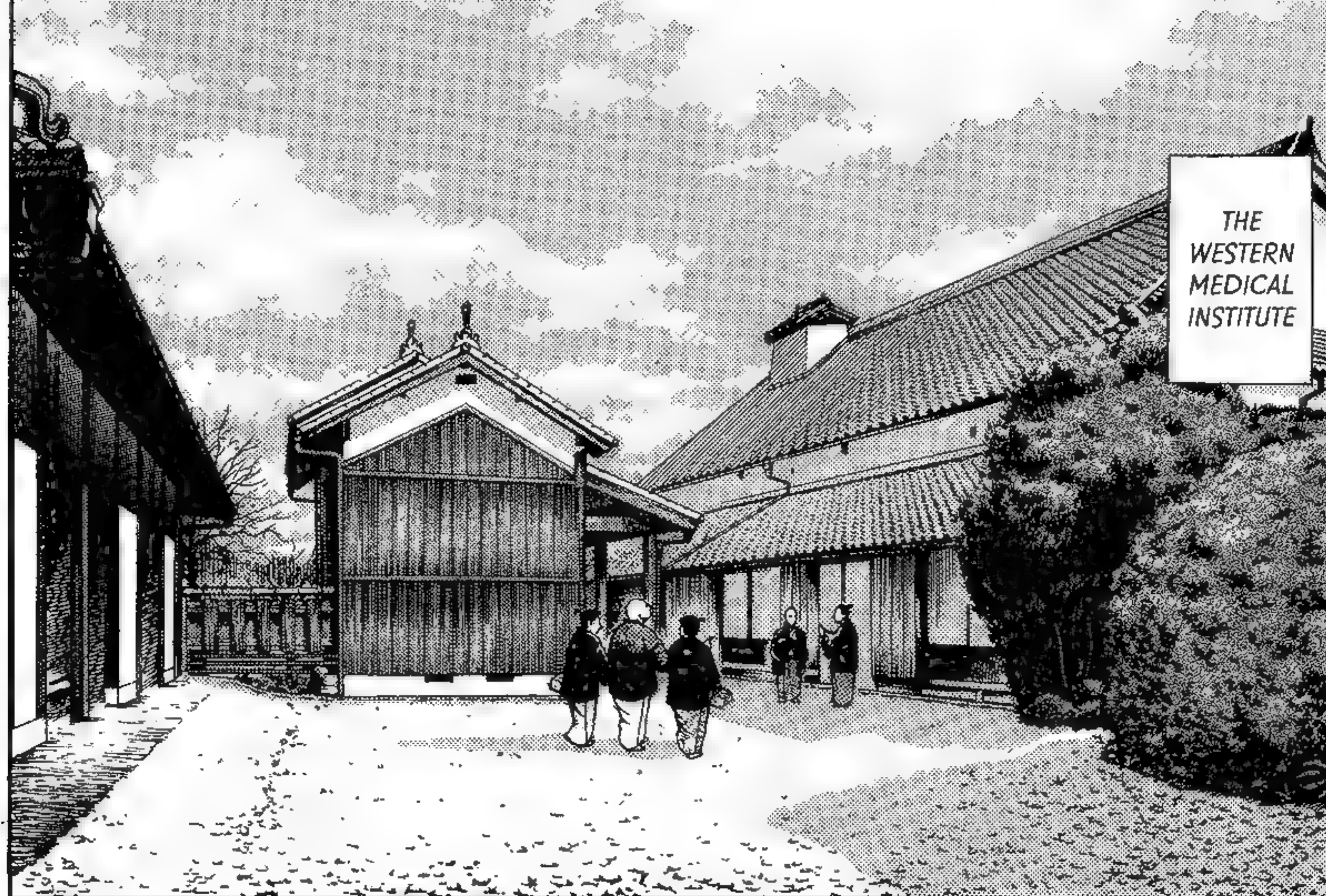
WHEN SHE  
WALKED DURING  
THE OIRAN COURTESAN  
PROCESSION, HUNDREDS  
OF SPECTATORS WOULD  
HUDDLE AROUND HER  
JUST TO CATCH  
A GLIMPSE.









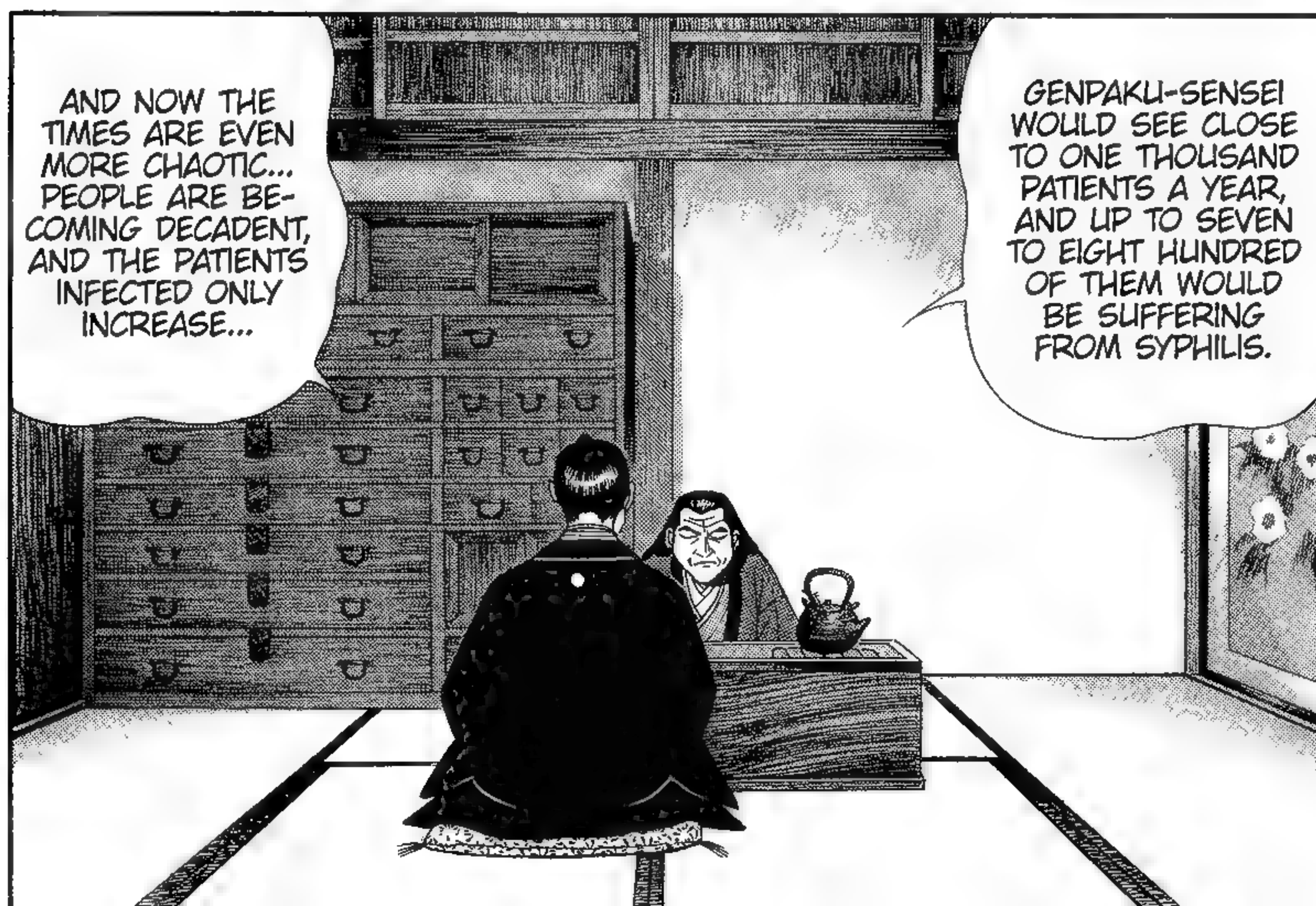


THE  
WESTERN  
MEDICAL  
INSTITUTE



ABOUT FIFTY YEARS AGO,  
GENPAKU SUGITA SAID IN  
HIS BOOK "KEIENYAWA" THAT  
THERE IS NO DISEASE AS  
DIFFICULT TO CURE AND YET  
COMMON AS SYPHILIS.

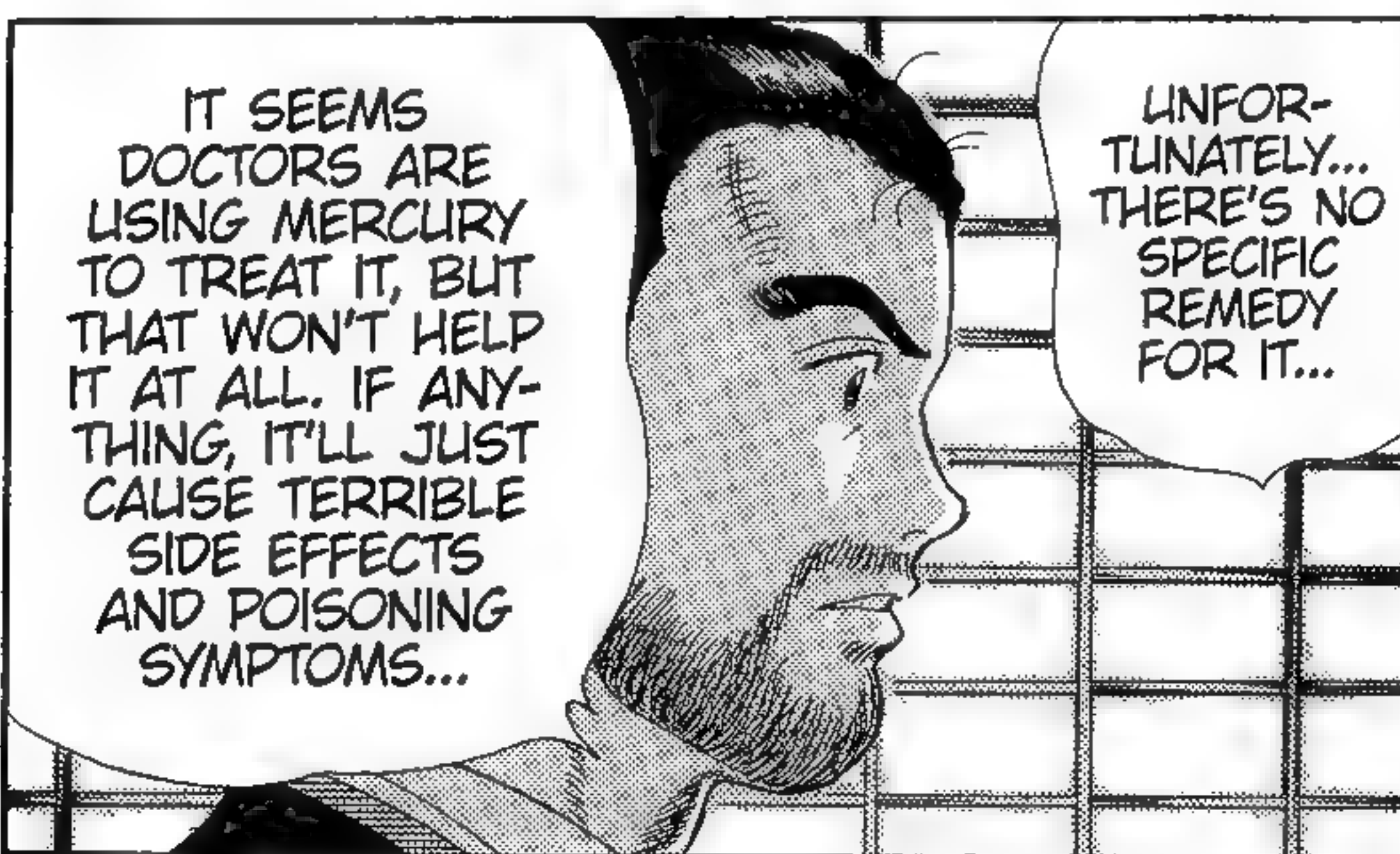
KOAN  
OGATA,  
THE HEAD  
OF THE  
INSTITUTE



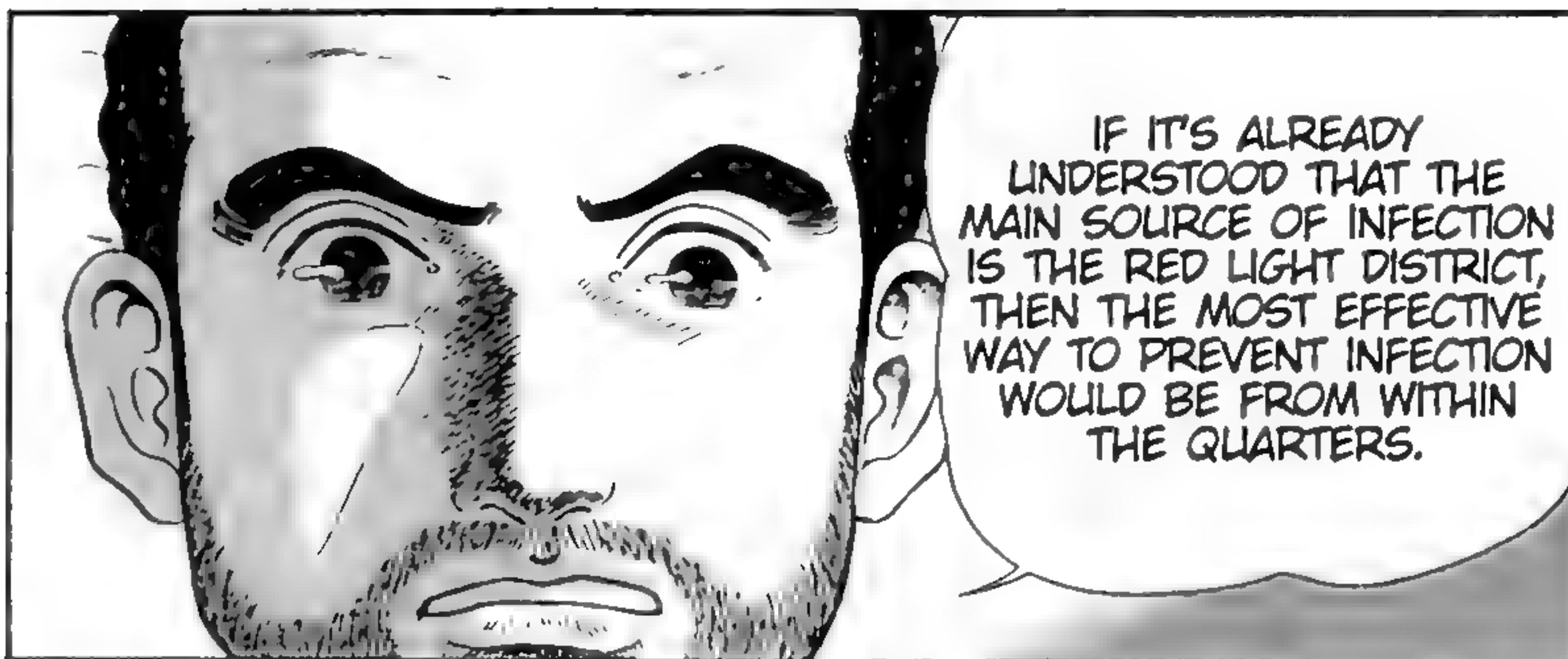
AND NOW THE  
TIMES ARE EVEN  
MORE CHAOTIC...  
PEOPLE ARE BE-  
COMING DECADENT,  
AND THE PATIENTS  
INFECTED ONLY  
INCREASE...

GENPAKU-SENSEI  
WOULD SEE CLOSE  
TO ONE THOUSAND  
PATIENTS A YEAR,  
AND UP TO SEVEN  
TO EIGHT HUNDRED  
OF THEM WOULD  
BE SUFFERING  
FROM SYPHILIS.













WHAT?!  
YOU WANT TO  
EXAMINE OUR  
GIRLS FOR  
SYPHILIS?!



WELL...



THE SUZUYA HOUSE WILL  
BECOME KNOWN AS THE  
SAFEST PLACE TO GO IN  
YOSHIWARA AS LONG AS  
EVERYTHING'S MANAGED  
WELL AFTER THE EXAMS.  
THERE'S NOTHING TO  
LOSE IN IT FOR YOU.

PLEASE  
LET ME!  
I'D LIKE TO  
KNOW HOW  
MANY OF  
THEM ARE  
INFECTED  
FIRST.



WHAT A  
LECH OF A  
DOCTOR!

YOU'RE  
JUST TRYING  
TO SNEAK  
A LOOK AT  
OUR BODIES  
FOR FREE.



WHAT?!  
NO WAY!

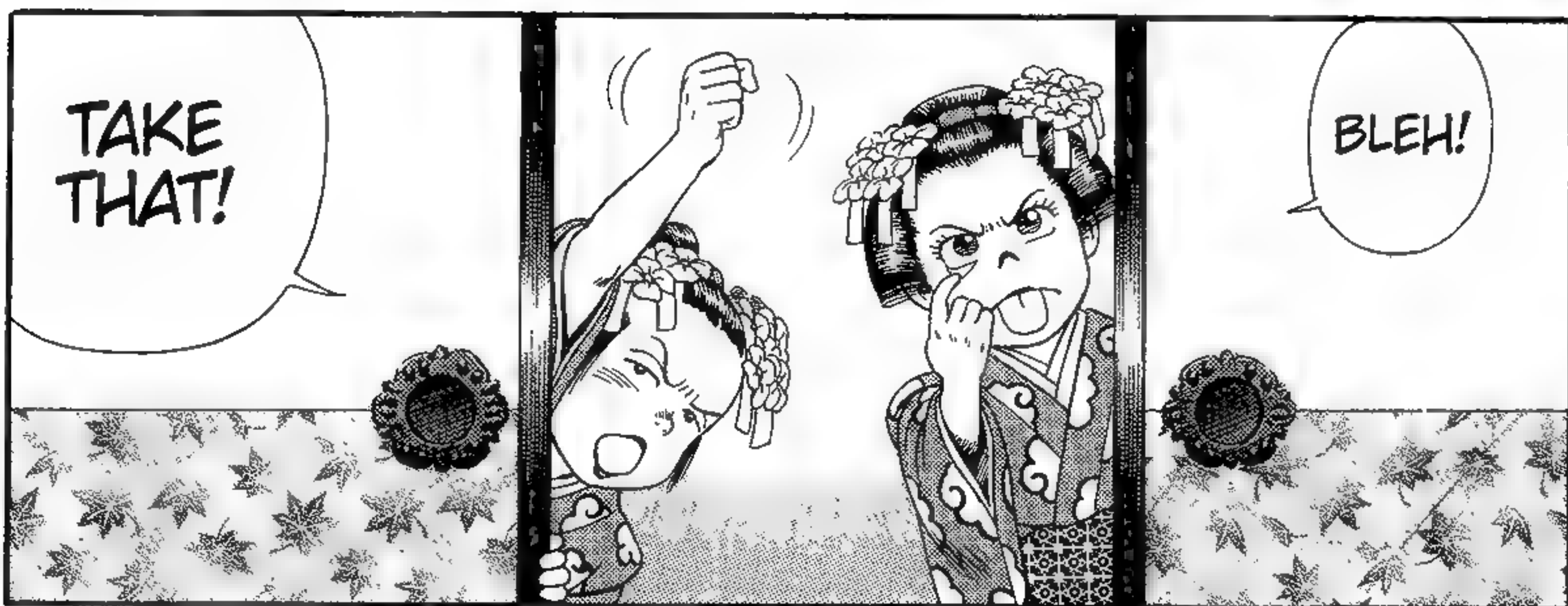




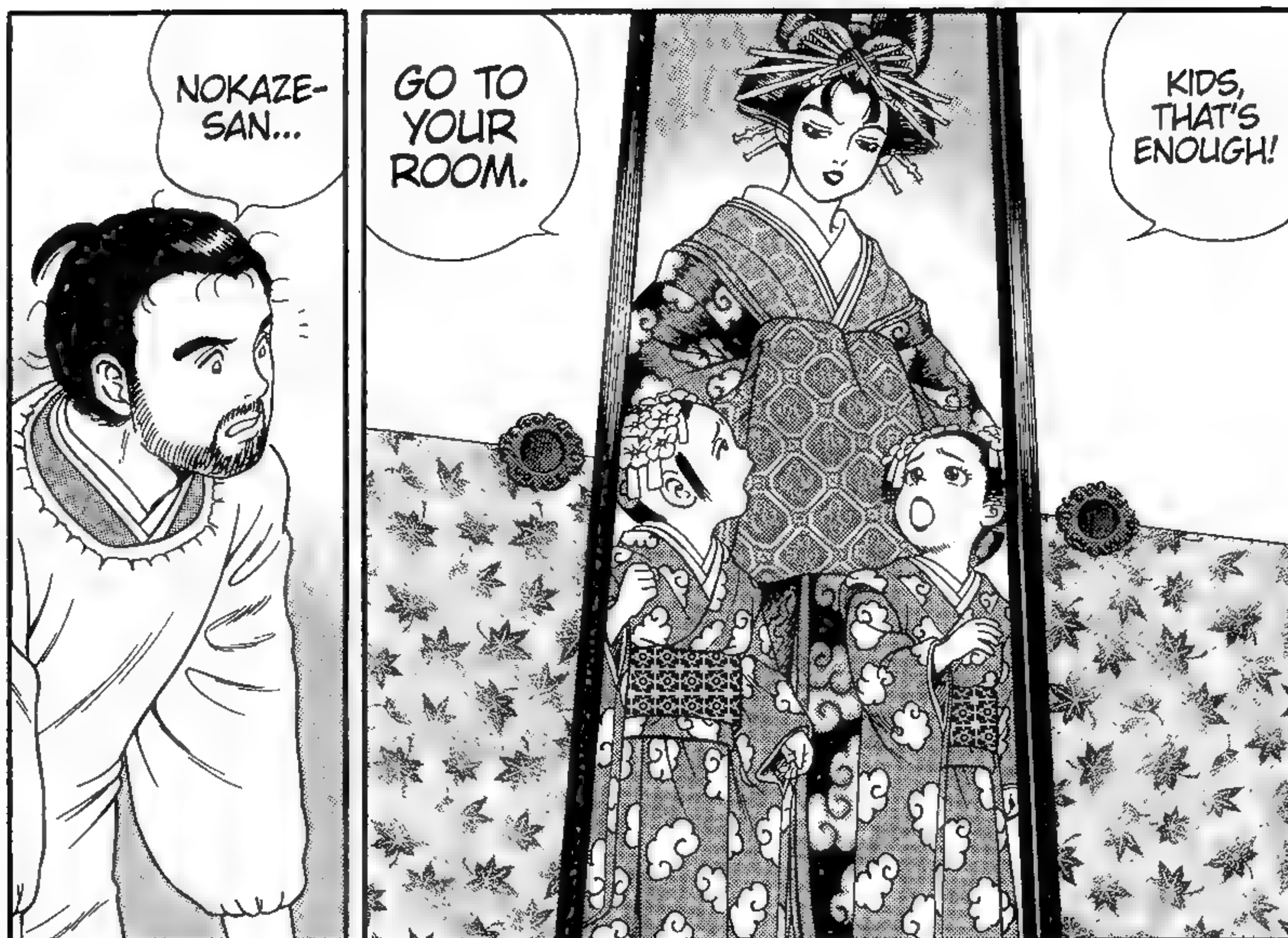




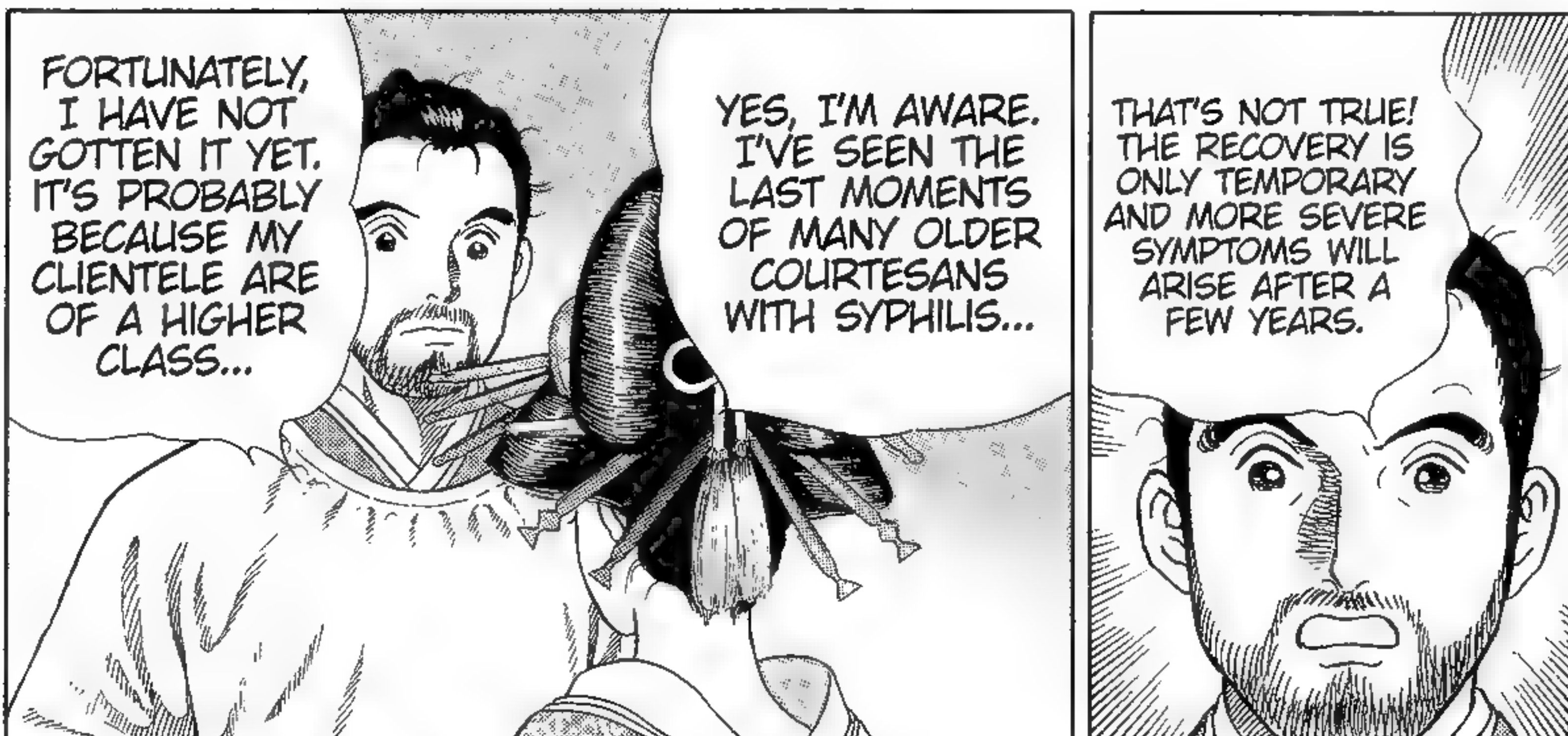
IS HE REALLY SOME FAMOUS DOC?!







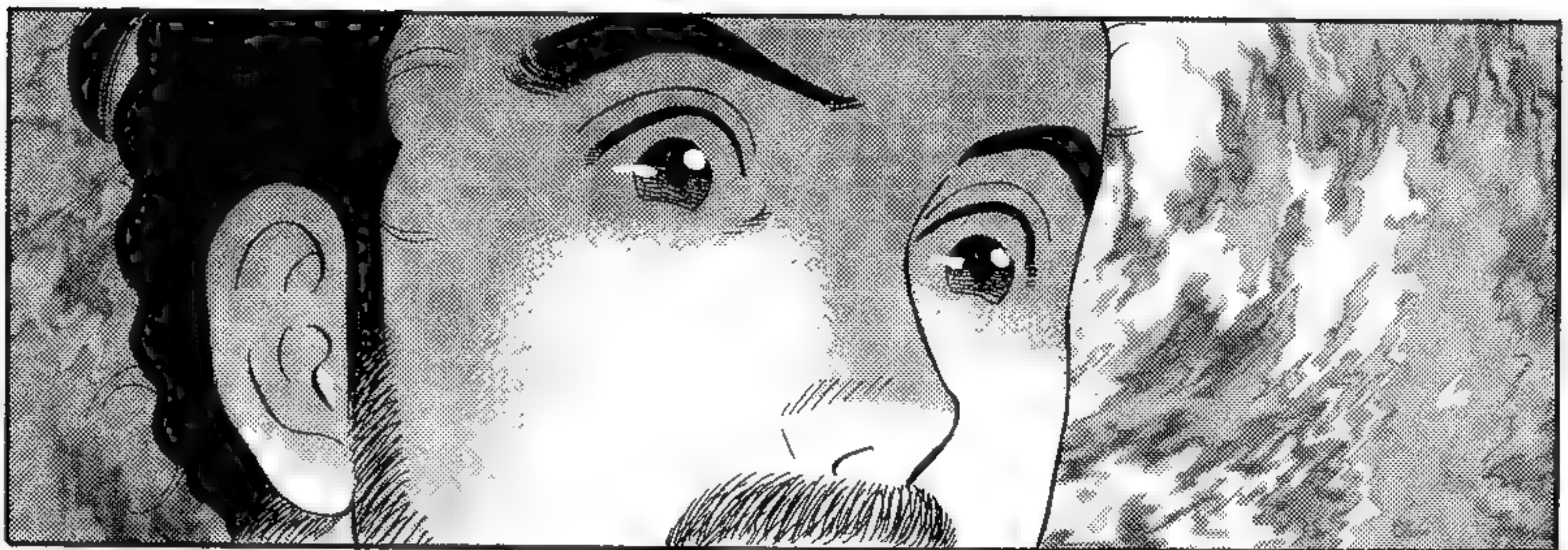






BUT IF YOU DON'T  
EVEN HAVE A WAY  
TO TREAT IT IN MIND,  
AND THEY HAVE TO  
UNDERGO EXCESSIVE  
CHECKUPS AND COULD  
END UP RESTRICTED  
FROM WORK, THEN  
YOSHIWARA WOULD  
SURELY COLLAPSE  
IMMEDIATELY.

IF YOU SAY YOU'RE  
REALLY ABLE TO  
CURE THIS DISEASE,  
THE COURTESANS  
WILL BE WILLING TO  
LISTEN TO YOU.





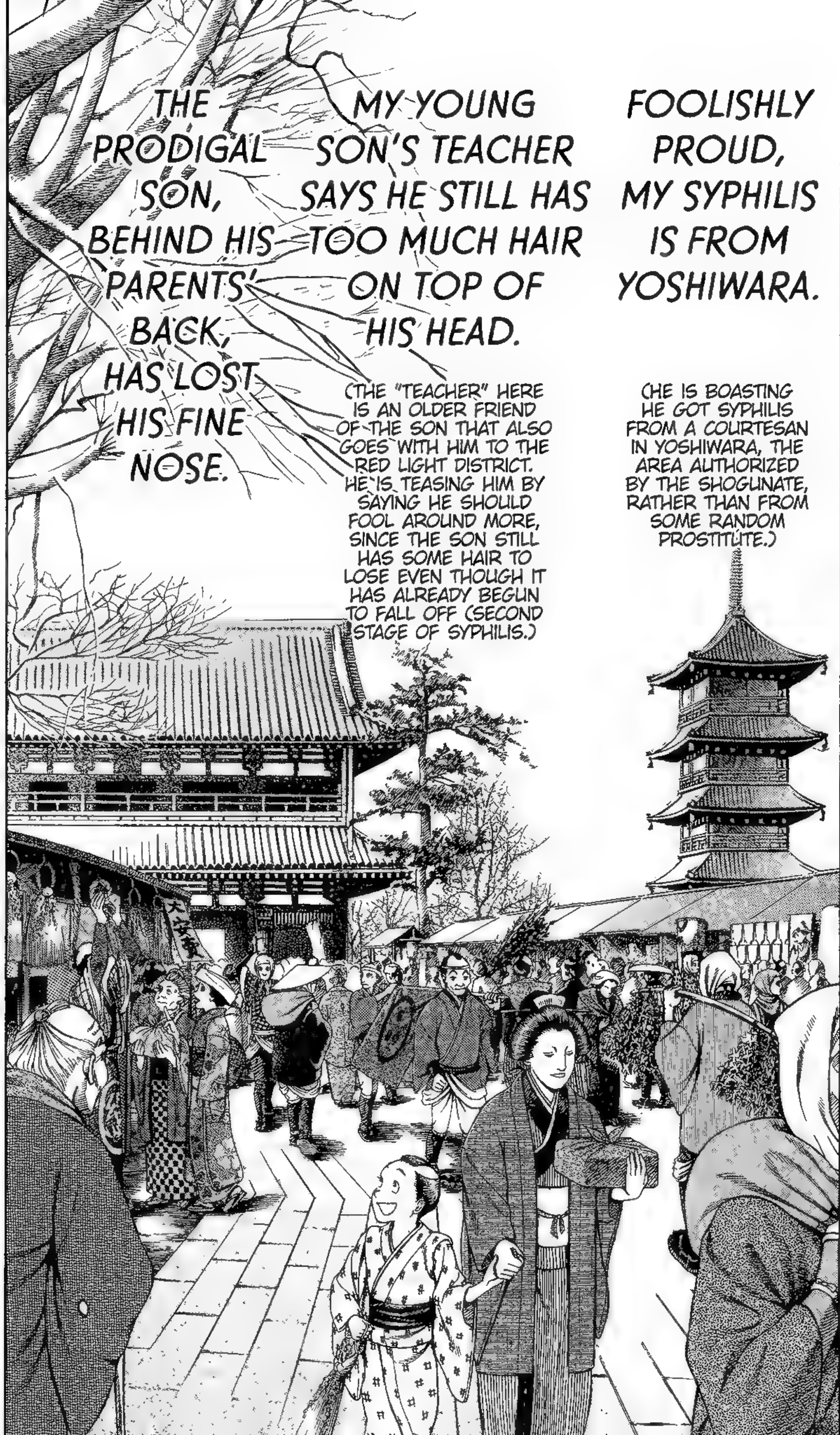
THE  
PRODIGAL  
SON,  
BEHIND HIS  
PARENTS'  
BACK,  
HAS LOST  
HIS FINE  
NOSE.

MY YOUNG  
SON'S TEACHER  
SAYS HE STILL HAS  
TOO MUCH HAIR  
ON TOP OF  
HIS HEAD.

FOOLISHLY  
PROUD,  
MY SYPHILIS  
IS FROM  
YOSHIWARA.

(THE "TEACHER" HERE  
IS AN OLDER FRIEND  
OF THE SON THAT ALSO  
GOES WITH HIM TO THE  
RED LIGHT DISTRICT.  
HE IS TEASING HIM BY  
SAYING HE SHOULD  
FOOL AROUND MORE,  
SINCE THE SON STILL  
HAS SOME HAIR TO  
LOSE EVEN THOUGH IT  
HAS ALREADY BEGUN  
TO FALL OFF (SECOND  
STAGE OF SYPHILIS.)

(HE IS BOASTING  
HE GOT SYPHILIS  
FROM A COURTESAN  
IN YOSHIWARA, THE  
AREA AUTHORIZED  
BY THE SHOGUNATE,  
RATHER THAN FROM  
SOME RANDOM  
PROSTITUTE.)







(THE SCENE  
OF A DOCTOR  
TELLING A  
PATIENT WITH  
SYPHILIS THAT  
HE NEEDS  
TREATMENT.  
THE "SON"  
REFERS TO  
THE PENIS.)

A SURGEON'S  
SMALL JOKE  
WHEN THEY ARE  
APPROACHED  
ABOUT THE  
PATIENT'S OWN  
"SON."

ALTHOUGH  
THEY CLAIMED  
THAT HE HAD  
BEEN CURED,  
HIS NOSE FELL  
RIGHT OFF.



THIS  
UNCONCERNED  
ATTITUDE...

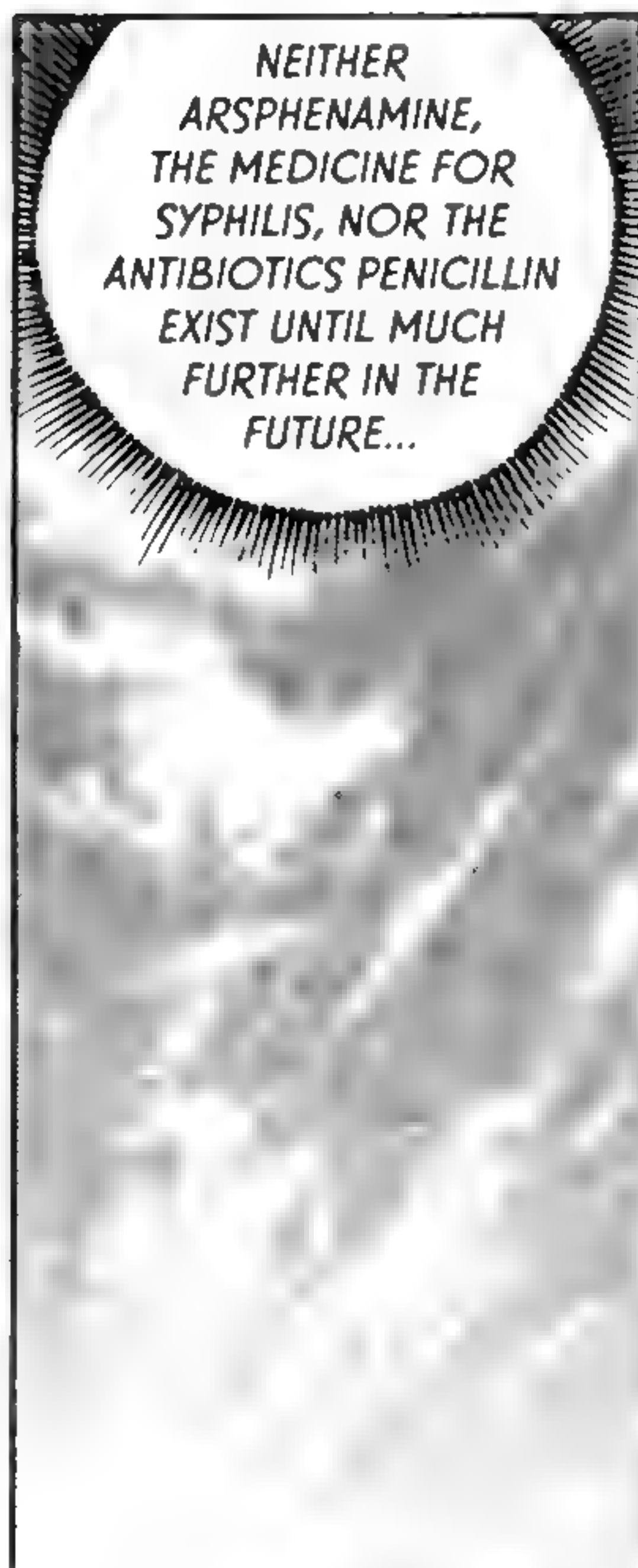
HOW CAN  
THIS BE? NONE  
OF THEM ARE  
TAKING SYPHILIS  
SERIOUSLY.



I'VE FELT IT  
SO MANY TIMES,  
THIS PECULIAR  
SENSITIVITY OF  
JAPANESE PEOPLE  
IN THIS ERA TO  
FRATERNIZE WITH  
DISEASES RATHER  
THAN FIGHT IT...

NO...  
THESE MIGHT  
BE WORDS OF  
SURRENDER...  
A SORROWFUL  
LAUGH THAT  
HIDES DEEP  
DESPAIR...





(THIS EXPRESSES THE SAD FATE OF PATIENTS WITH SYPHILIS IN EDO WHEN NOTHING IS EFFECTIVE AND ALL THEY CAN DO IS MAKE PILGRIMAGES WEARING THE ROBES OF THE CLERGY WITH THEIR HEAD SHAVED IN THE LAST MOMENTS OF THEIR LIVES.)

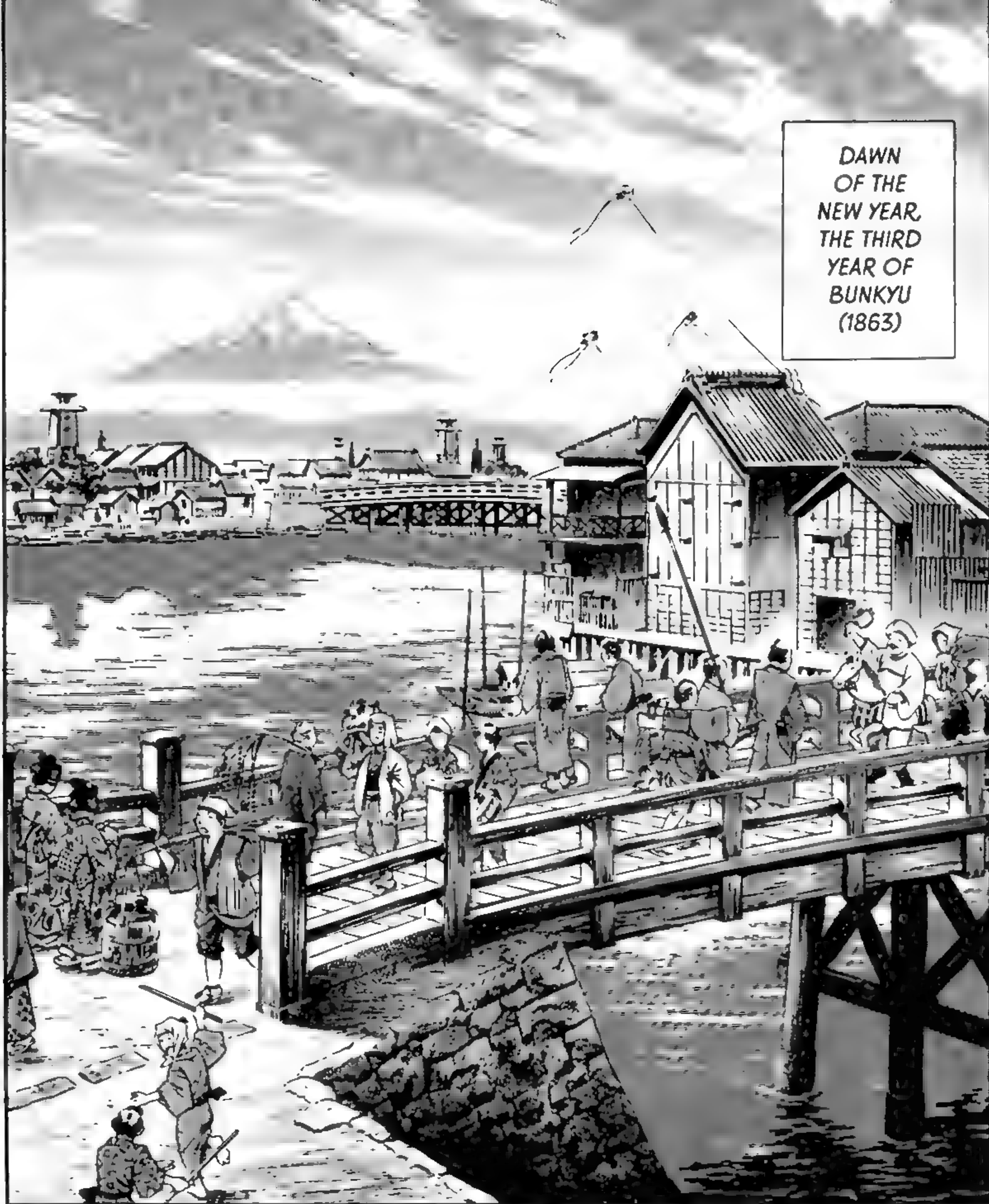
WITH ITS  
BURDEN  
AT LIFE'S  
END, IS  
A BLACK  
STAINED  
ROBE.

SYPHILIS  
IN EDO,

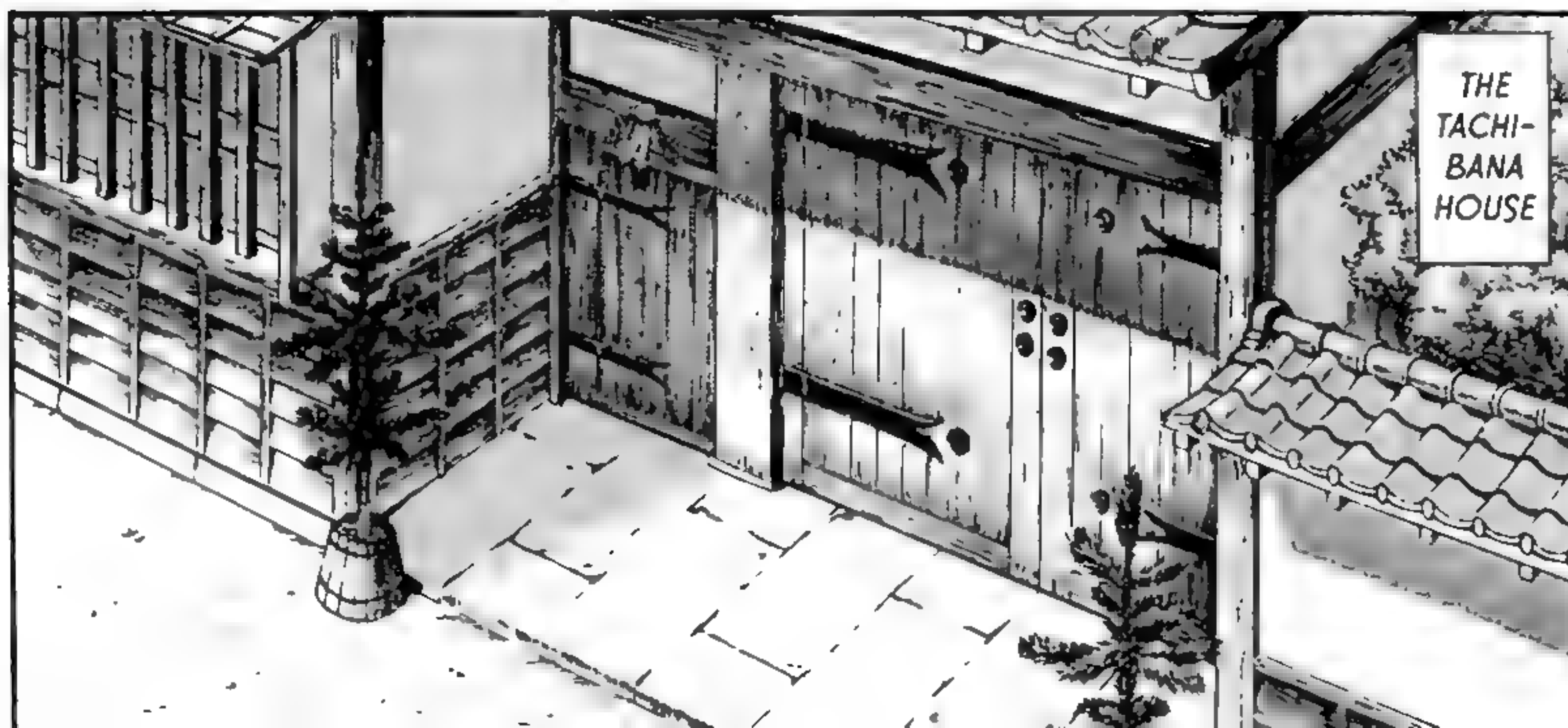




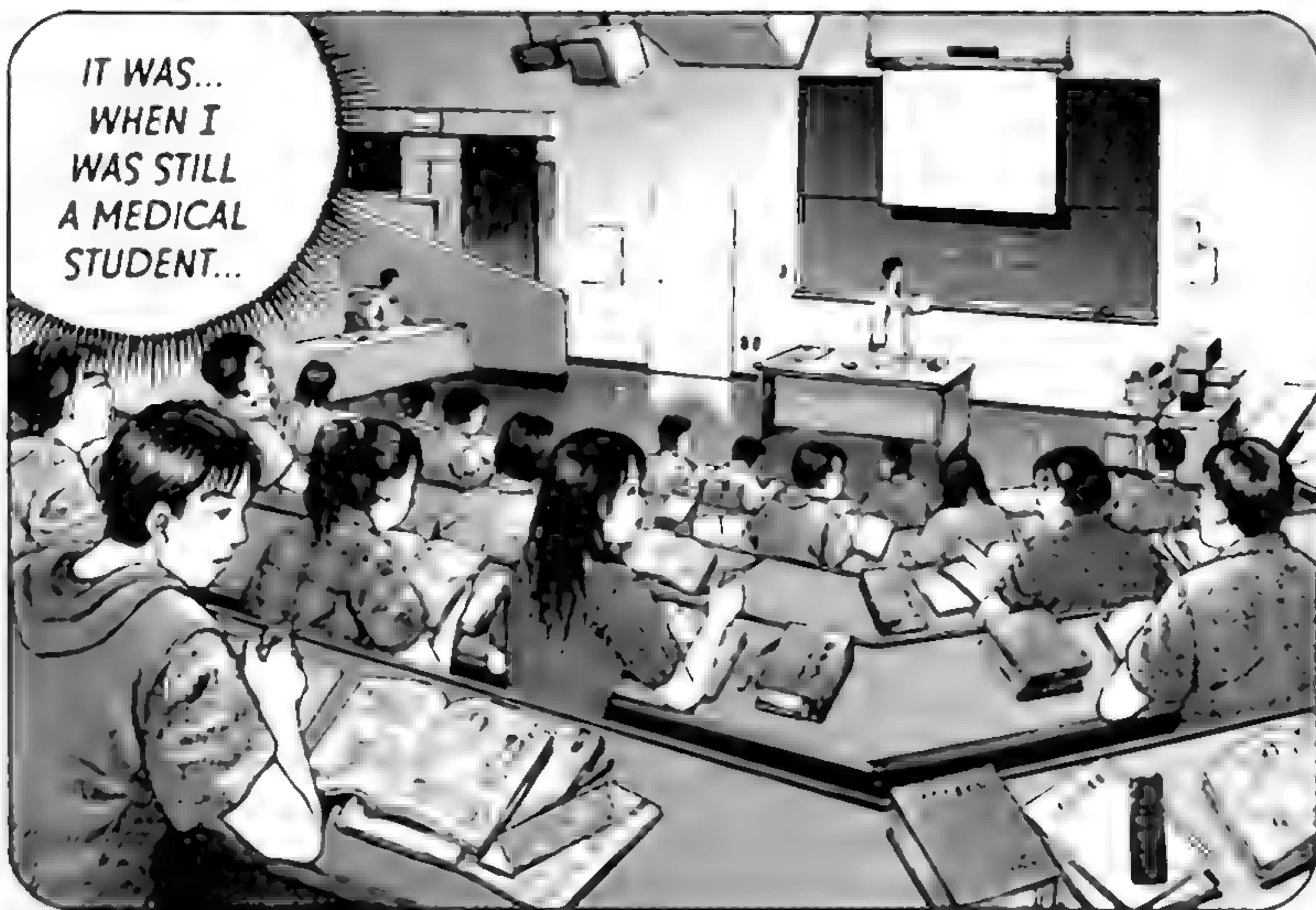
DAWN  
OF THE  
NEW YEAR,  
THE THIRD  
YEAR OF  
BUNKYU  
(1863)



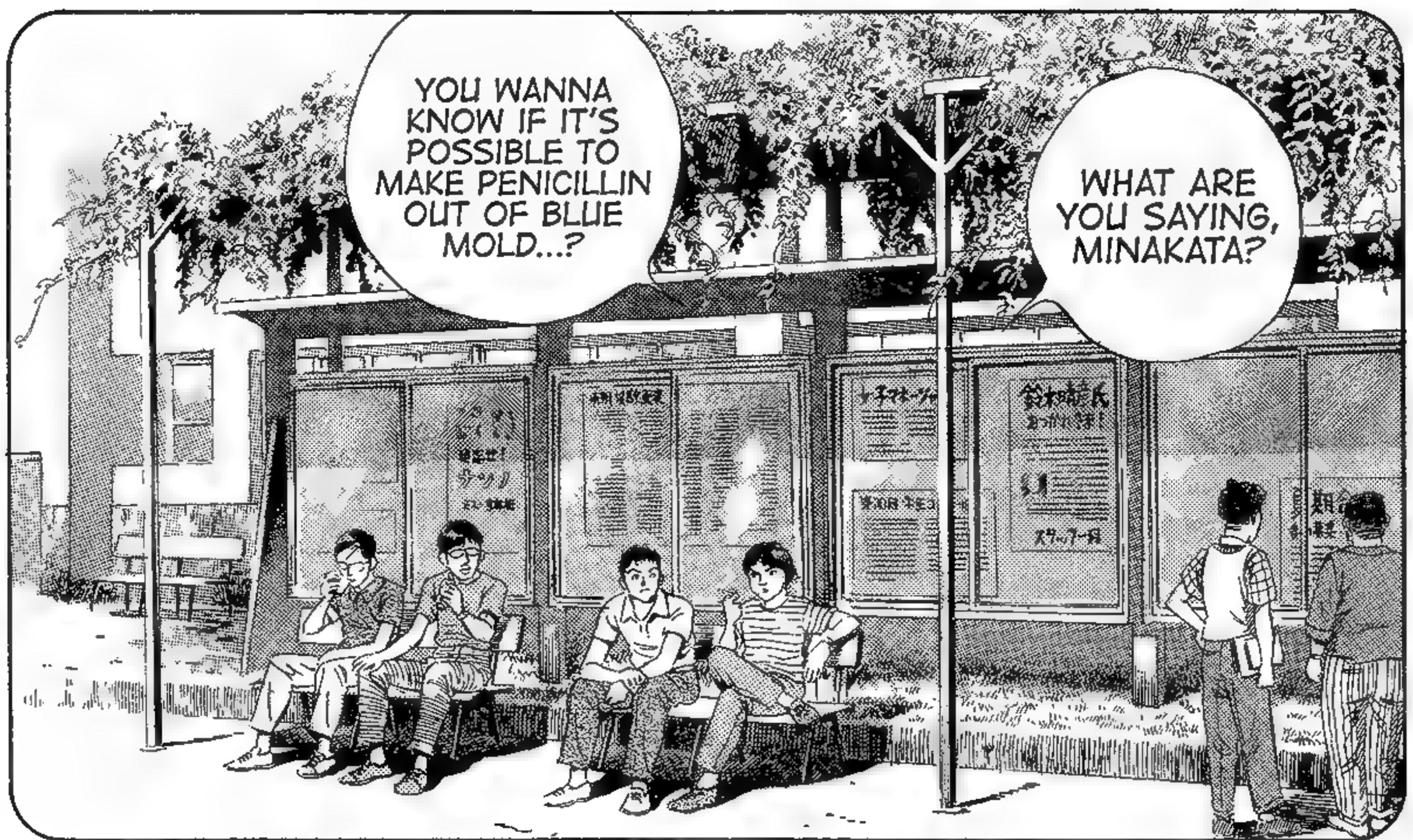
THE  
TACHI-  
BANA  
HOUSE











YOU WANNA  
KNOW IF IT'S  
POSSIBLE TO  
MAKE PENICILLIN  
OUT OF BLUE  
MOLD...?

WHAT ARE  
YOU SAYING,  
MINAKATA?



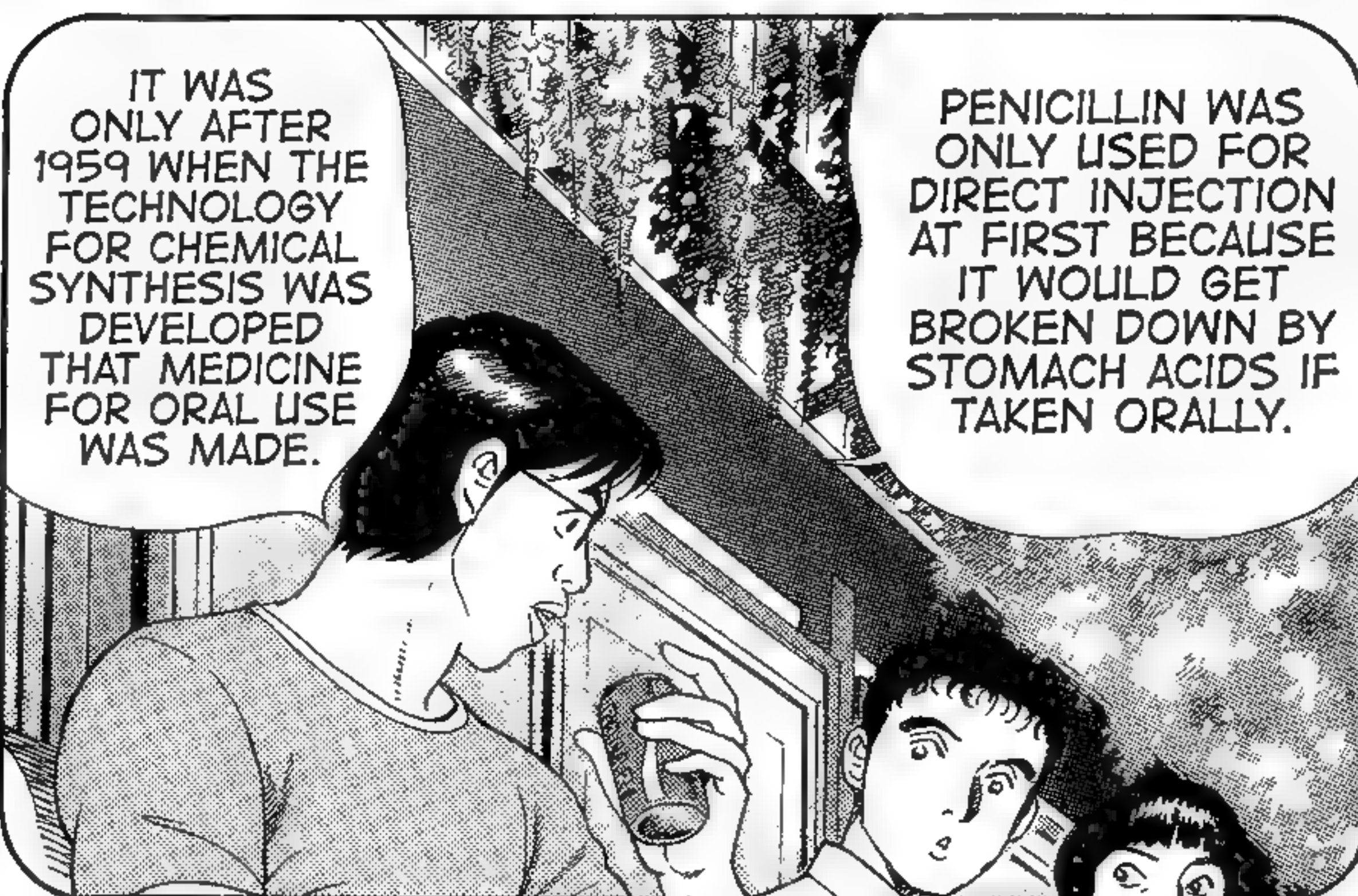
WHO  
KNOWS?  
BUT YOU  
*CAN* FIND  
IT ANY-  
WHERE.

OH...  
I'VE READ  
THAT ONE  
BEFORE,  
BUT...



DO YOU  
THINK IT'S  
POSSIBLE?

YEAH, THERE WAS  
THIS PART IN A MANGA  
THAT TOOK PLACE IN THE  
PAST WHERE PENICILLIN  
WAS EXTRACTED FROM  
BLUE MOLD, AND THEN  
USED TO TREAT PEOPLE  
THAT WERE SICK.



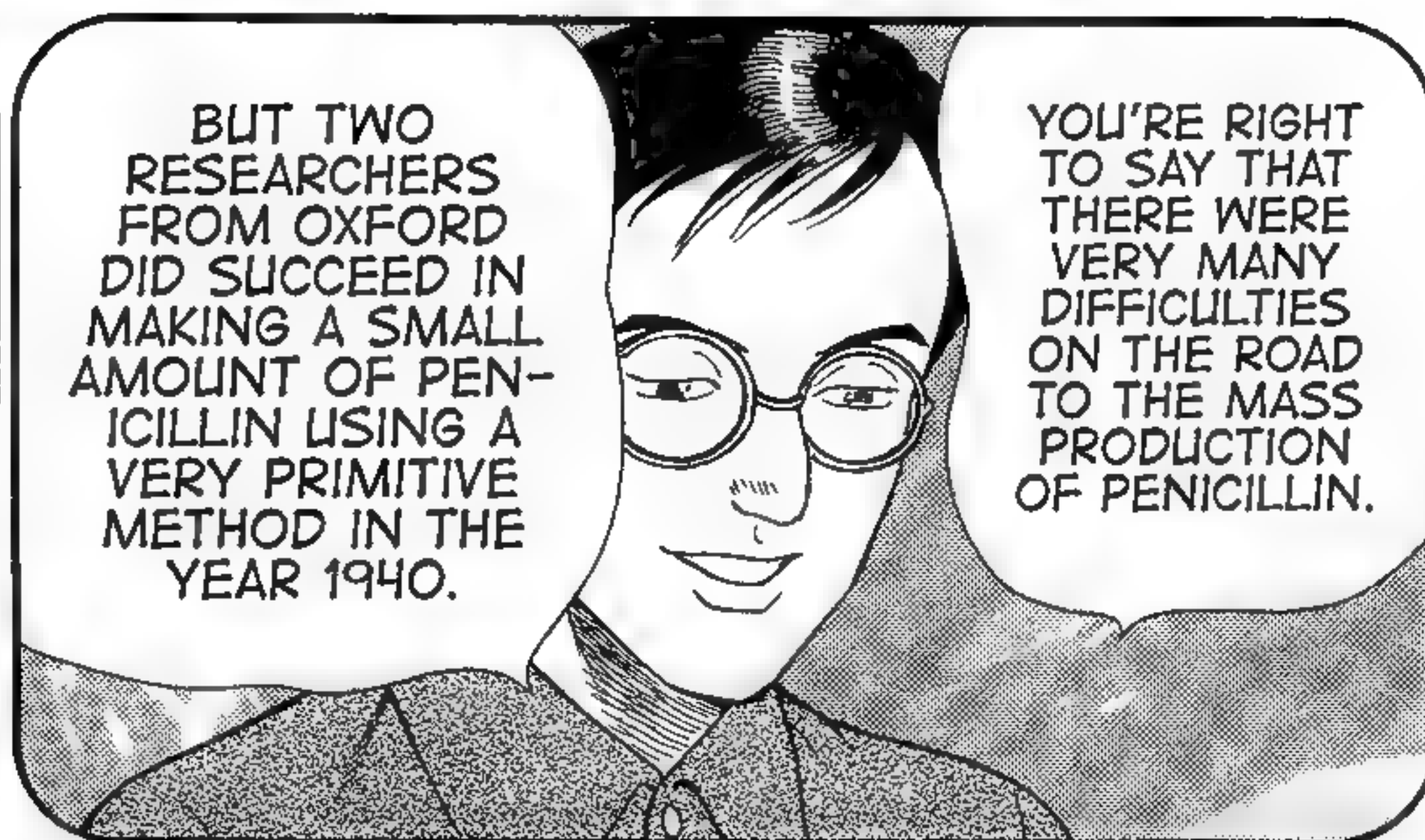
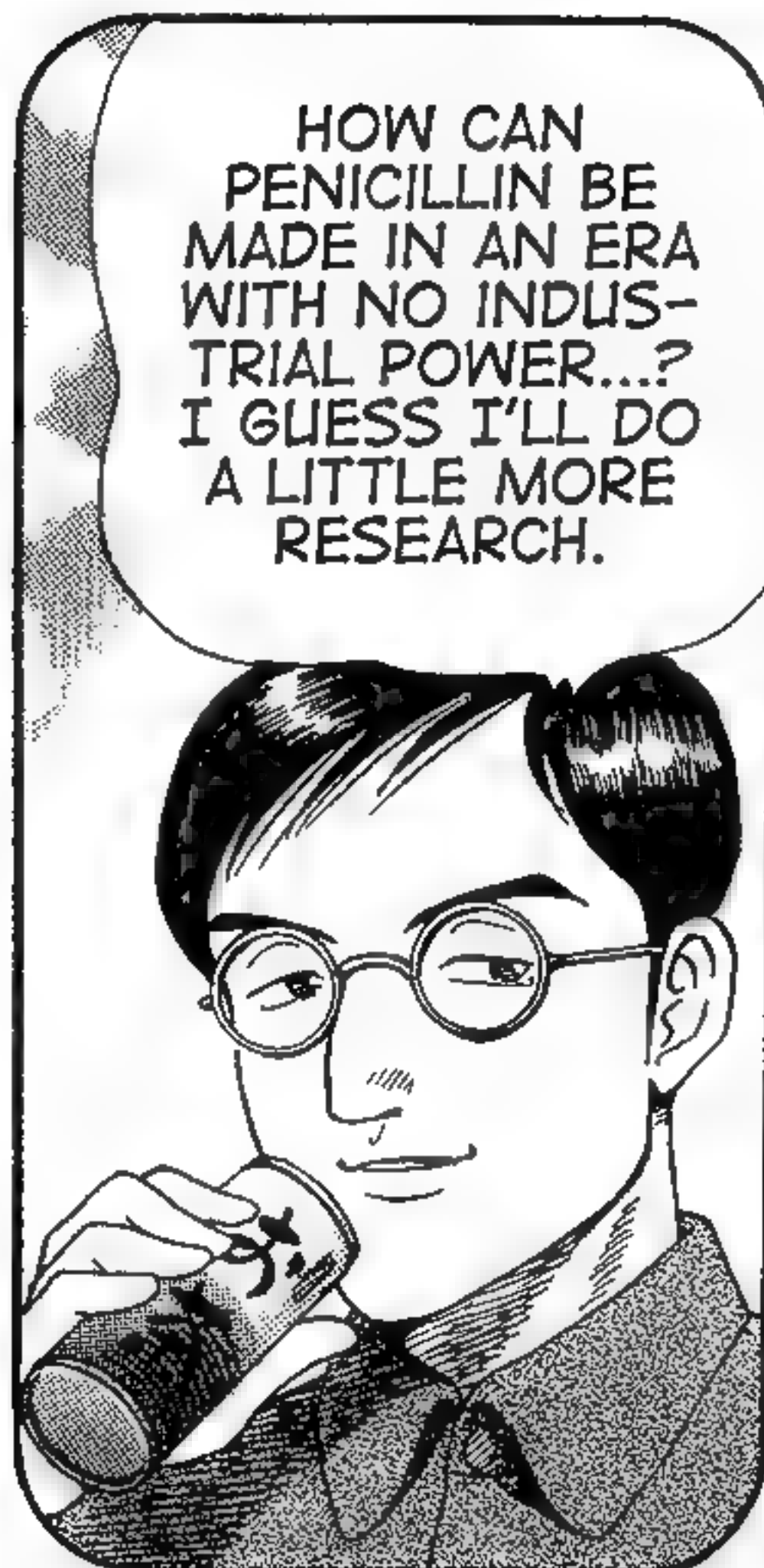
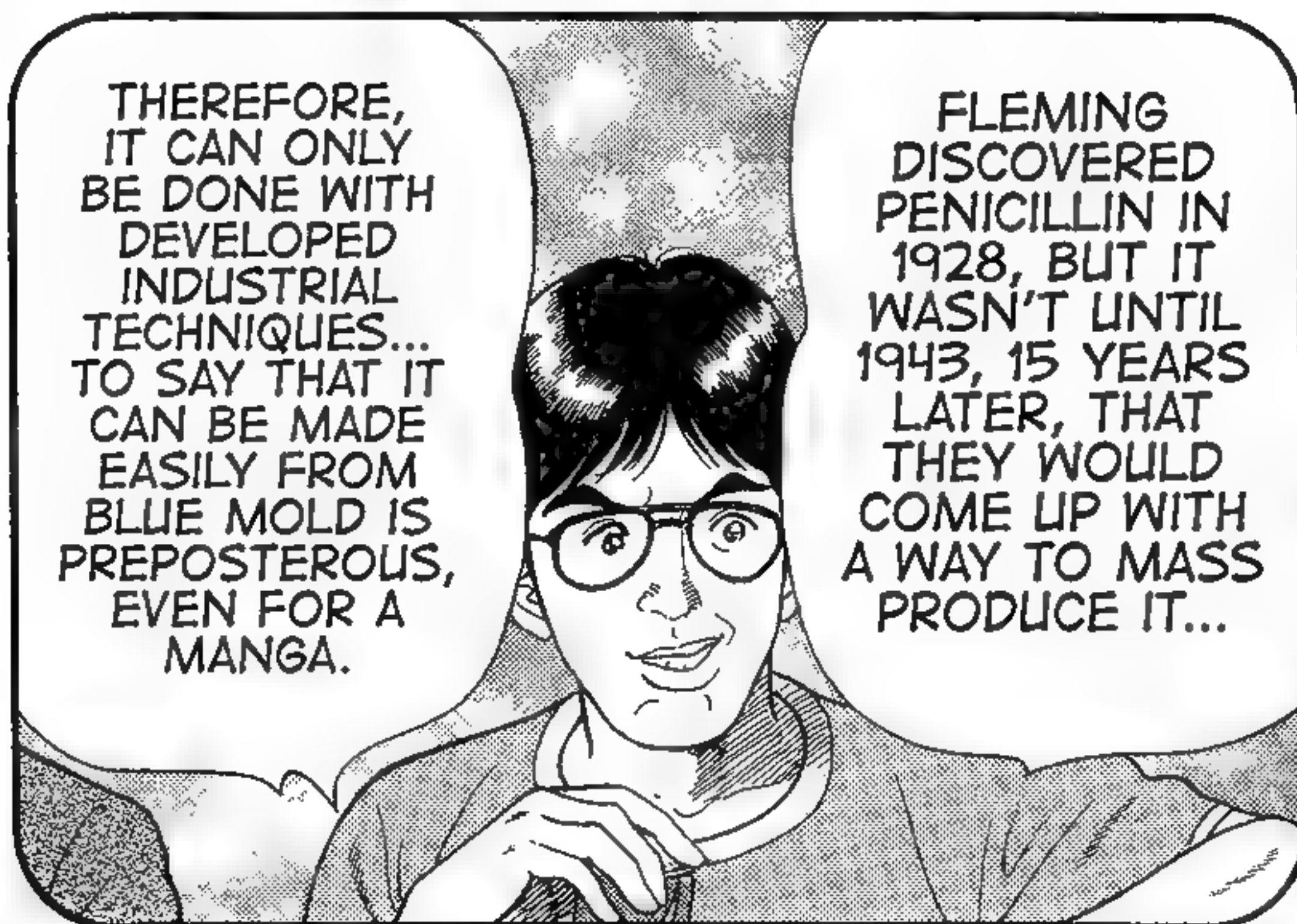
IT WAS  
ONLY AFTER  
1959 WHEN THE  
TECHNOLOGY  
FOR CHEMICAL  
SYNTHESIS WAS  
DEVELOPED  
THAT MEDICINE  
FOR ORAL USE  
WAS MADE.

PENICILLIN WAS  
ONLY USED FOR  
DIRECT INJECTION  
AT FIRST BECAUSE  
IT WOULD GET  
BROKEN DOWN BY  
STOMACH ACIDS IF  
TAKEN ORALLY.



DO YOU HEAR  
YOURSELVES?  
YOU GUYS ARE  
SUPPOSED TO  
BE MEDICAL  
STUDENTS.

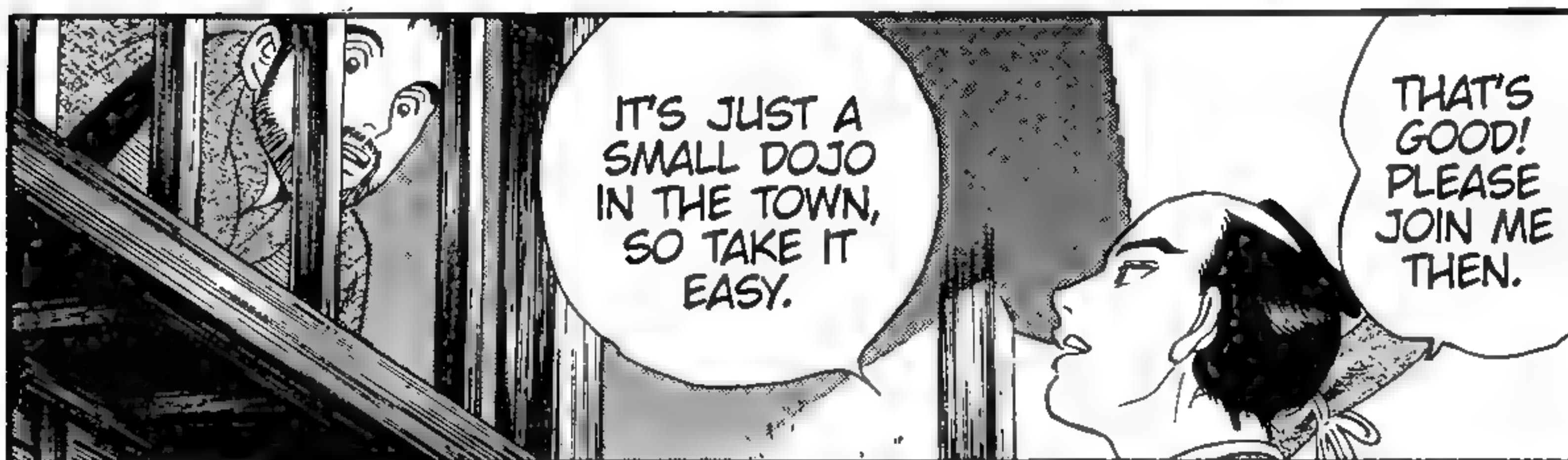






















\*KENDO TODAY IS MUCH LIKE A SPORT.  
IN CONTRAST, KENDO OF THE PAST WAS MUCH  
MORE FREE FORM AS IT WAS A MARTIAL ART.



















I'LL  
HELP  
YOU!



T-THE  
BOAT'S  
FLOATING  
AWAY!



CREAK!



NRGH!

CREAK!



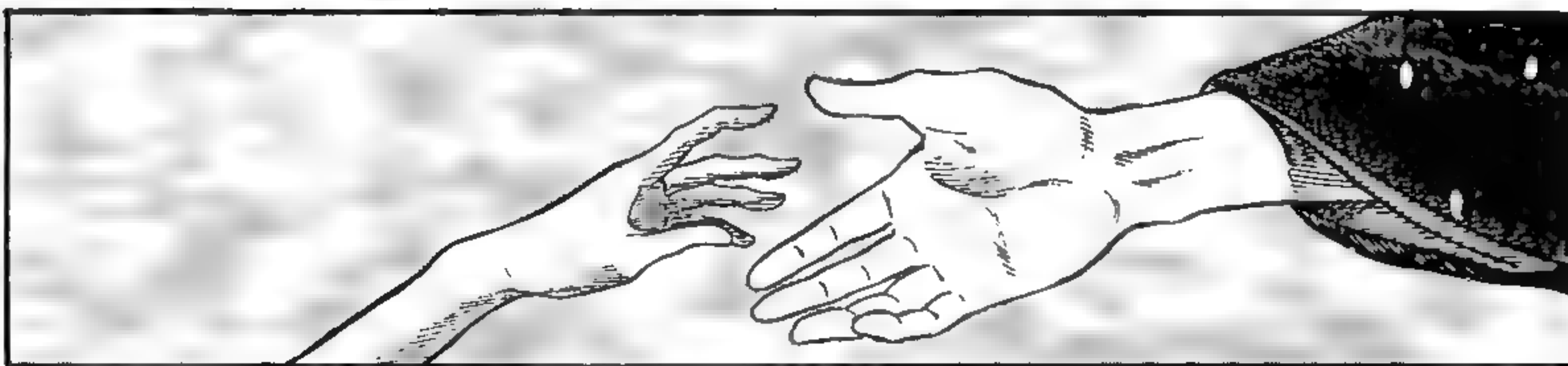
GRAB ON  
TIGHT!

GIVE ME  
YOUR  
HAND!



I'M TELLING  
YOU, JUST  
LEAVE IT!  
THEY FLOAT  
DOWN HERE  
ALL THE  
TIME.

YOU CAN'T  
SAVE HER  
ANYWAY!











BADUMP!

BADUMP!



I... JUST  
REMEMBERED...  
WHAT WAS WRITTEN  
IN TOMOMITSU'S  
REPORT....



BADUMP!





AT THIS  
MOMENT,  
RIGHT IN  
FRONT OF  
MY EYES...

A SMALL  
BROKEN  
BOAT IS  
SINKING  
INTO THE  
RIVER.

## DEPTH CHAPTER PART 2: NATURAL PENICILLIN



IN HER LAST  
MOMENTS,  
SHE RAISED  
HER TWO  
EMACIATED  
ARMS TO  
THE HEAVENS.

THEN,



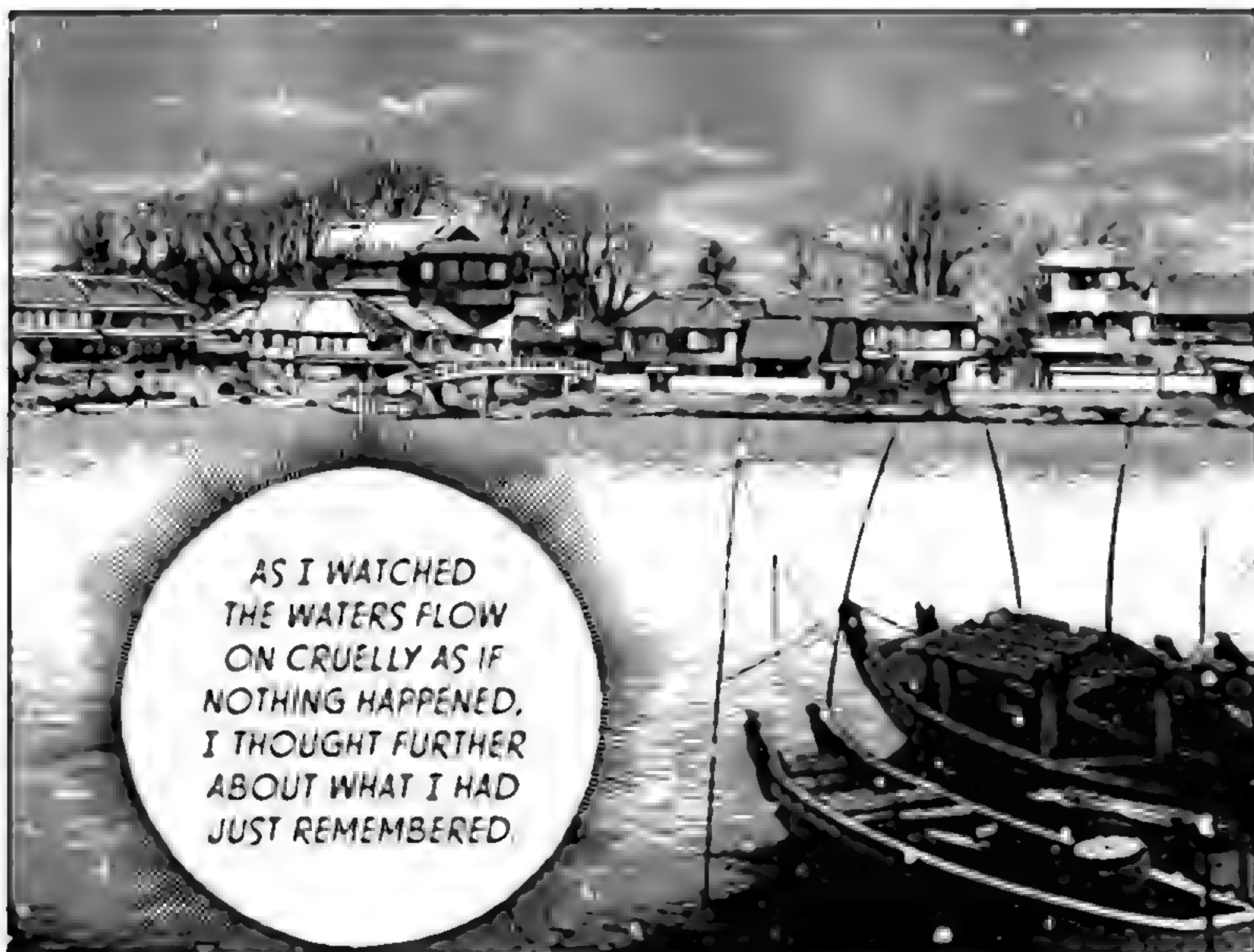
IN THE BOAT,  
A COURTESAN  
WITH TERMINAL  
SYPHILIS WAS  
ABANDONED,  
WRAPPED IN A  
STRAW MAT




DEPTH CHAPTER  
PART 2: NATURAL  
PENICILLIN











THE PRIMITIVE  
METHOD OF MAKING  
PENICILLIN THAT MY  
CLASSMATE HAD ONCE  
WRITTEN DOWN  
LONG AGO...

I WONDER IF  
I CAN REALLY  
PUT IT TO THE  
TEST IN THIS ERA.



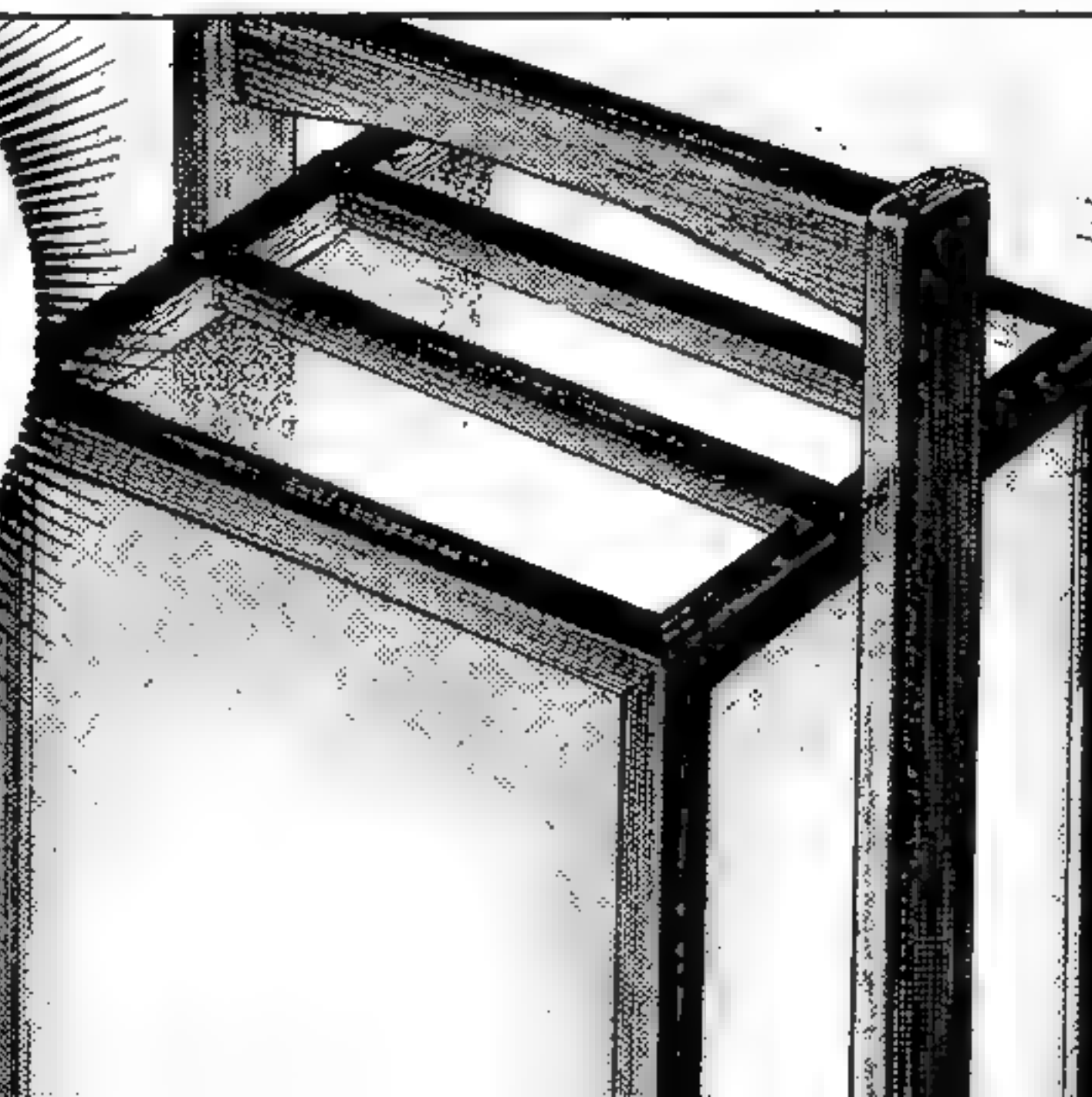
BUT IF YOU DON'T  
EVEN HAVE A WAY  
TO TREAT IT IN MIND,  
AND THEY HAVE TO  
UNDERGO EXCESSIVE  
CHECKUPS AND COULD  
END UP RESTRICTED  
FROM WORK, THEN  
YOSHIWARA WOULD  
SURELY COLLAPSE  
IMMEDIATELY.

IF YOU SAY YOU'RE  
REALLY ABLE TO  
CURE THIS DISEASE,  
THE COURTESANS  
WILL BE WILLING TO  
LISTEN TO YOU.

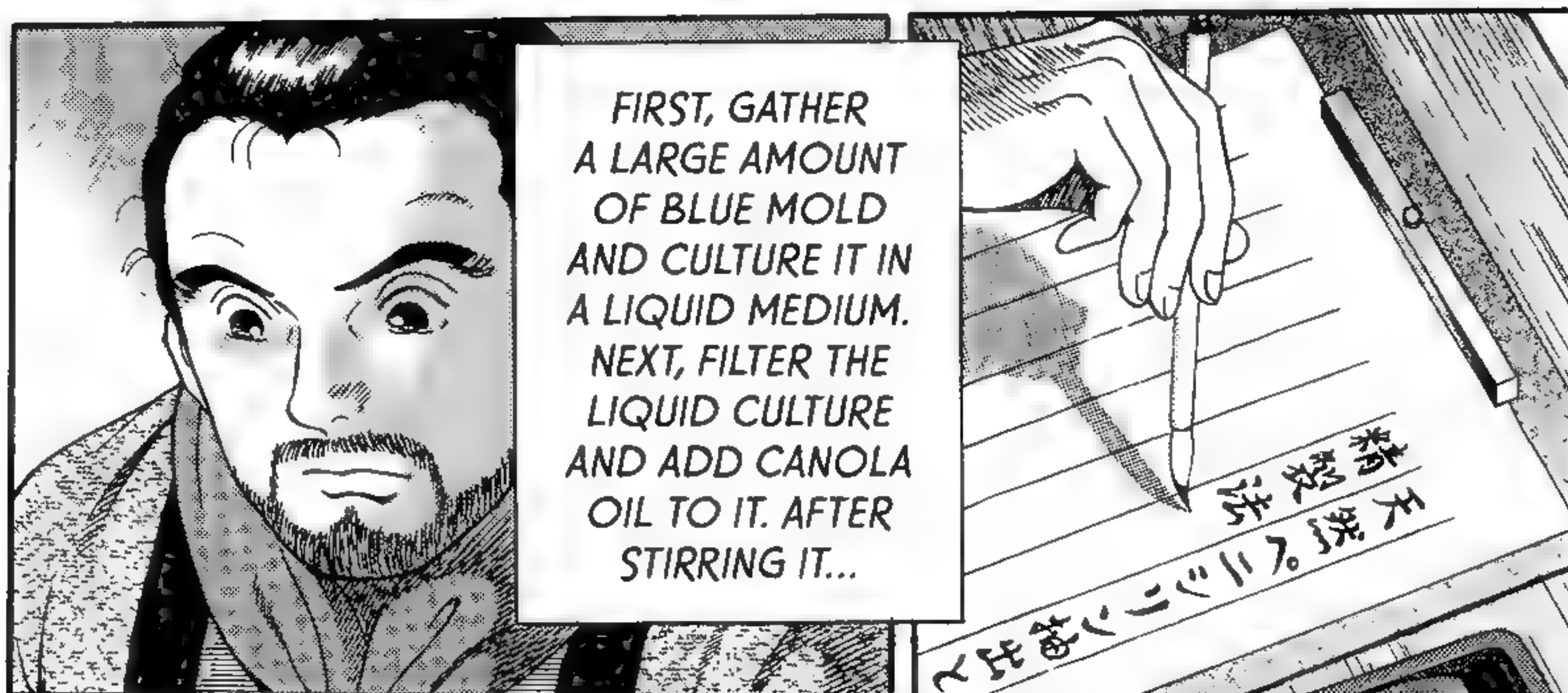


BUT IF  
I COULD  
PRODUCE  
PENICILLIN  
SOMEHOW...

THERE IS  
NO MEDICINE  
THAT CAN CURE  
SYPHILIS IN  
THIS ERA.



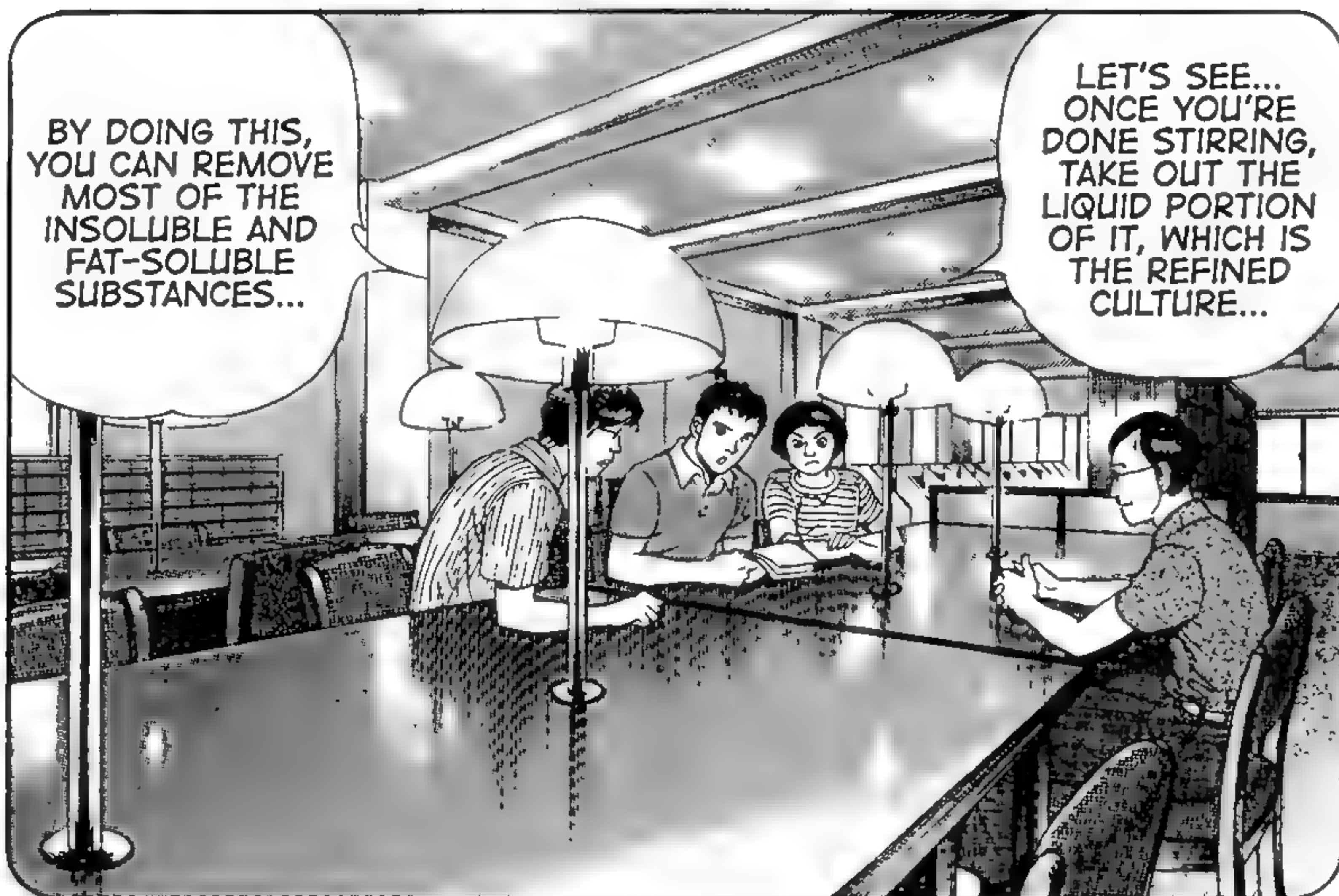




FIRST, GATHER  
A LARGE AMOUNT  
OF BLUE MOLD  
AND CULTURE IT IN  
A LIQUID MEDIUM.  
NEXT, FILTER THE  
LIQUID CULTURE  
AND ADD CANOLA  
OIL TO IT. AFTER  
STIRRING IT...

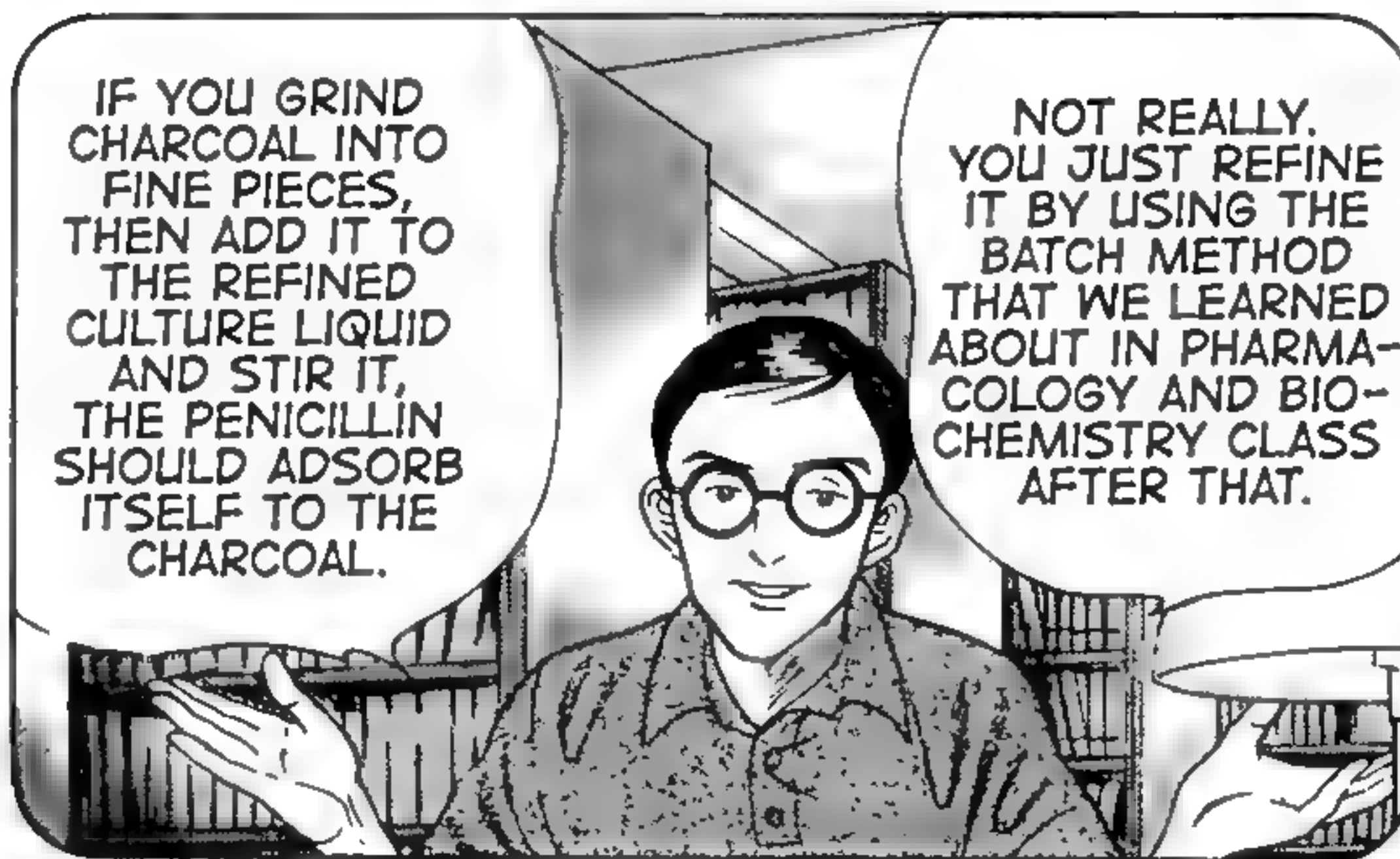
青黴素  
の抽出と  
精製





BY DOING THIS,  
YOU CAN REMOVE  
MOST OF THE  
INSOLUBLE AND  
FAT-SOLUBLE  
SUBSTANCES...

LET'S SEE...  
ONCE YOU'RE  
DONE STIRRING,  
TAKE OUT THE  
LIQUID PORTION  
OF IT, WHICH IS  
THE REFINED  
CULTURE...



IF YOU GRIND  
CHARCOAL INTO  
FINE PIECES,  
THEN ADD IT TO  
THE REFINED  
CULTURE LIQUID  
AND STIR IT,  
THE PENICILLIN  
SHOULD ADSORB  
ITSELF TO THE  
CHARCOAL.

NOT REALLY.  
YOU JUST REFINES  
IT BY USING THE  
BATCH METHOD  
THAT WE LEARNED  
ABOUT IN PHARMA-  
COLOGY AND BIO-  
CHEMISTRY CLASS  
AFTER THAT.



SOUNDS  
REALLY  
COMPLI-  
CATED!

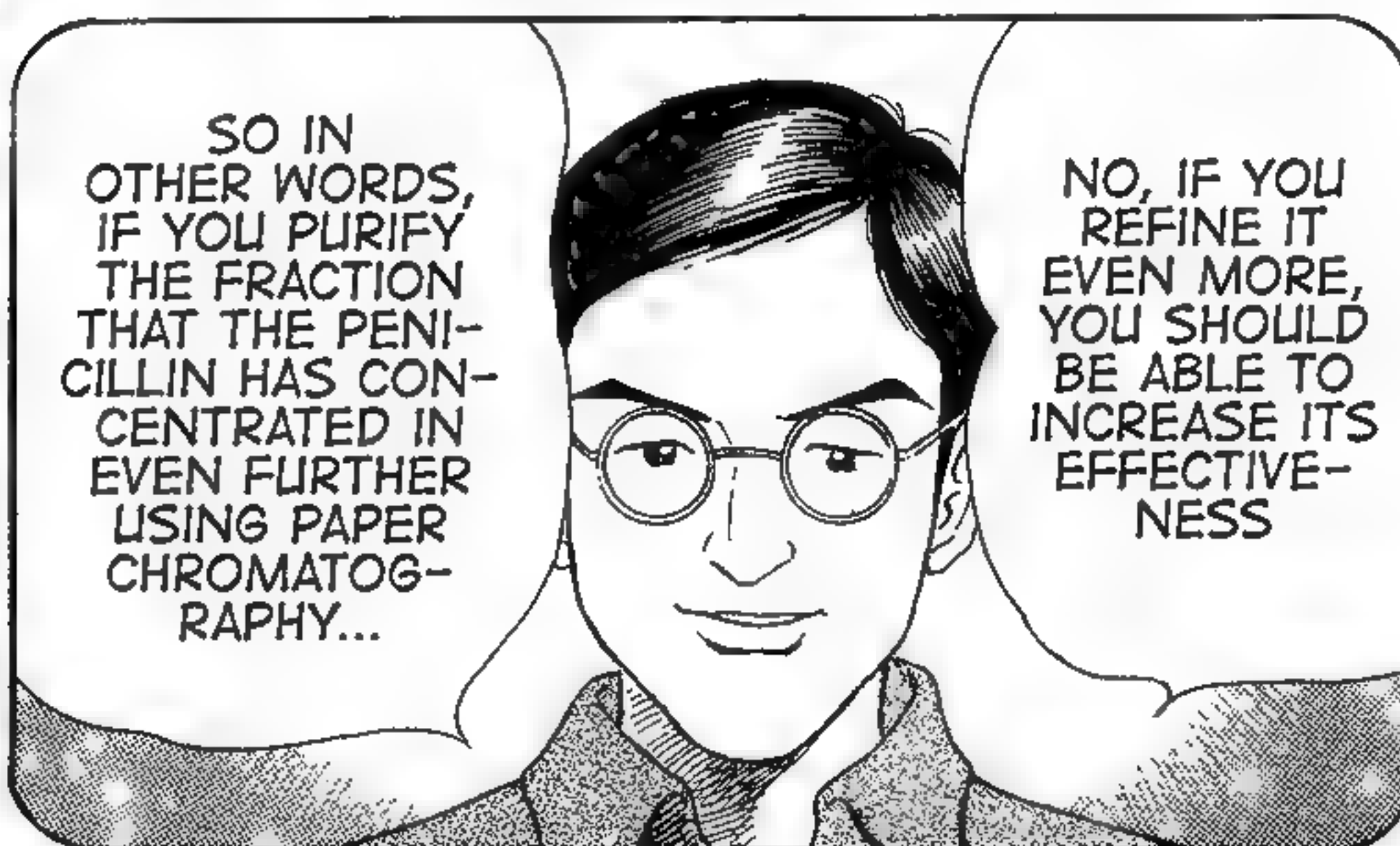
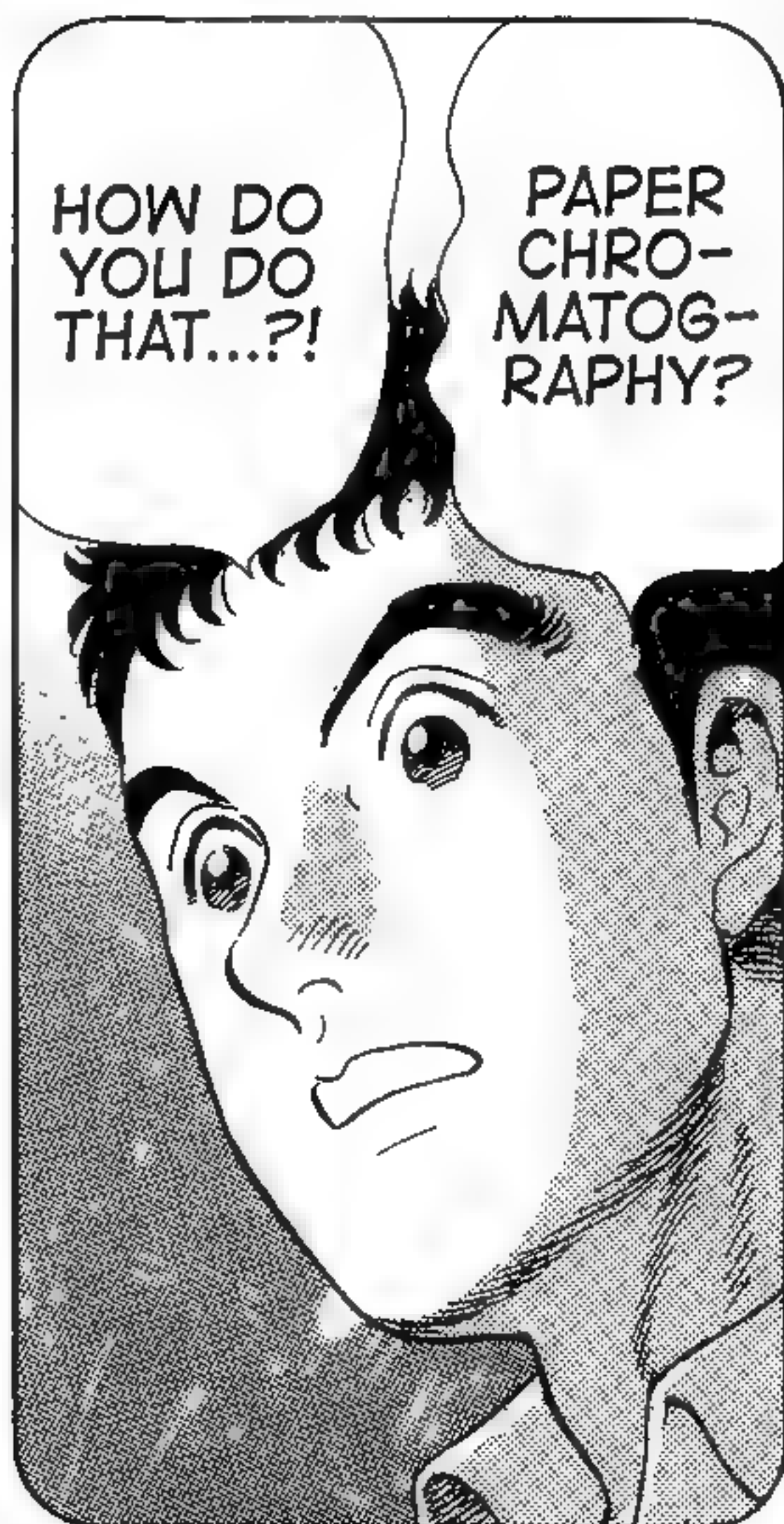
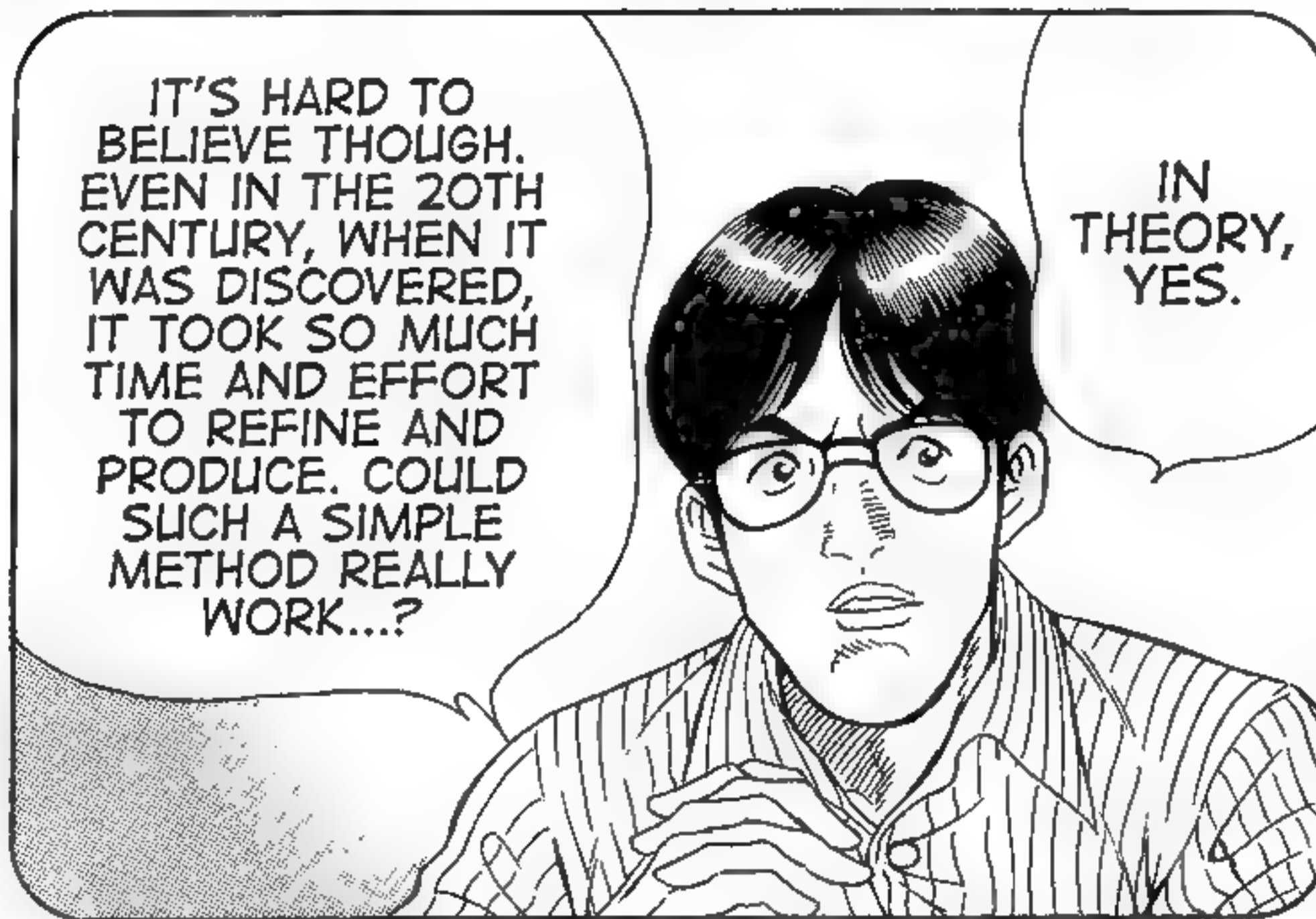
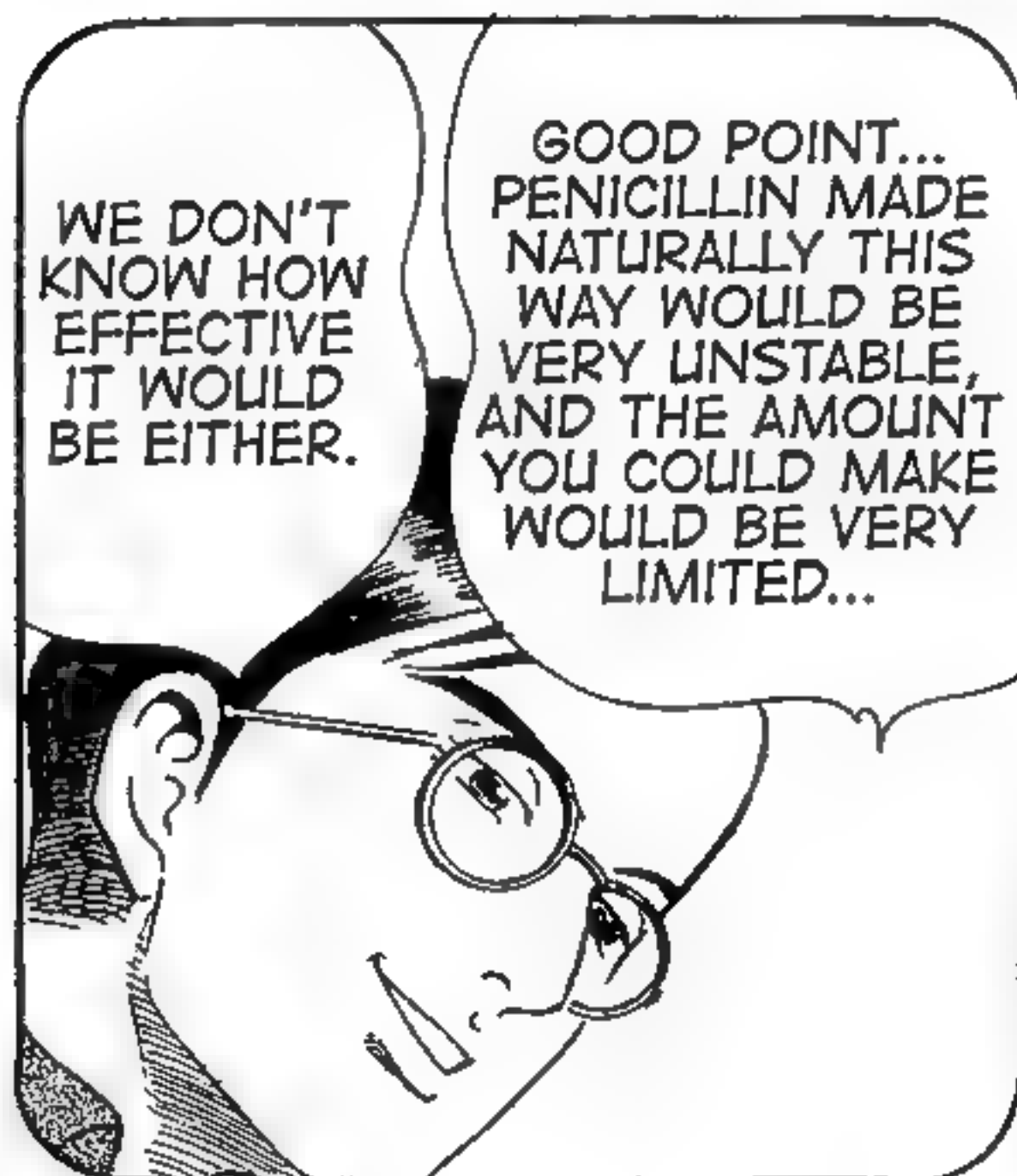
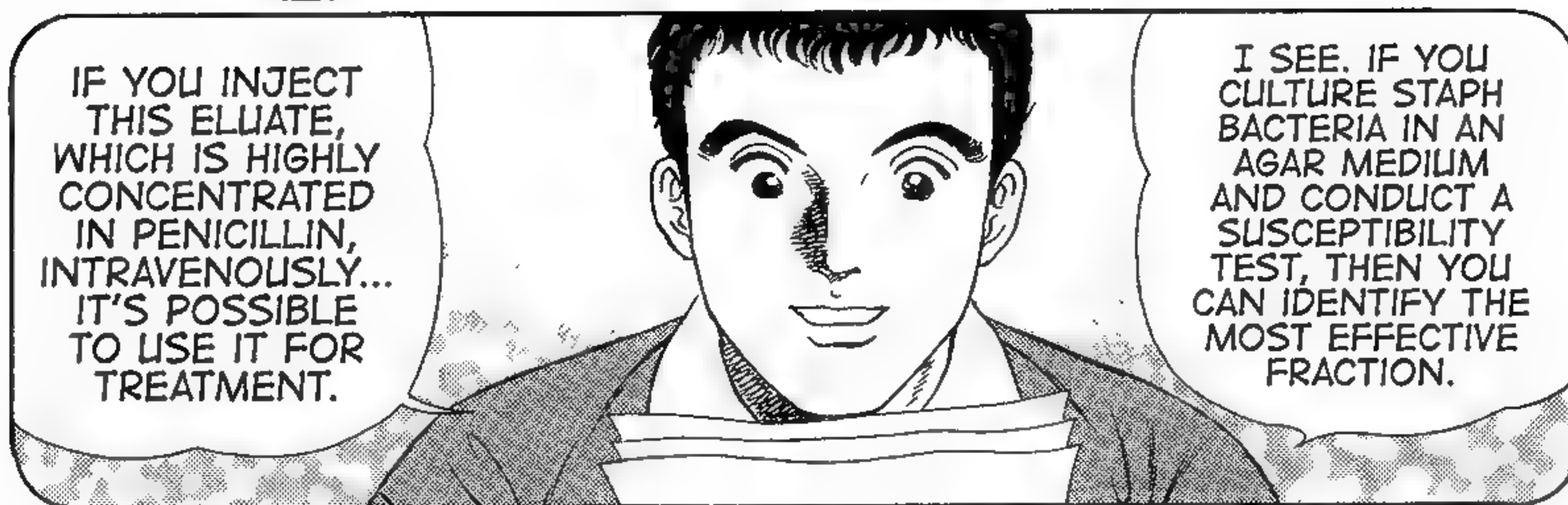
EWW.



BY DOING THIS AND  
FRACTIONATING IT,  
THE PENICILLIN WILL  
CONCENTRATE IN  
CERTAIN FRACTIONS  
AND BE ELUTED...  
THIS PROCESS IS  
KNOWN AS COLUMN  
CHROMATOGRAPHY.

YOU PUT THE  
CHARCOAL THAT  
THE PENICILLIN'S  
ATTACHED TO IN  
A COLUMN-LIKE  
CONTAINER AND  
CLEANSE IT USING  
DISTILLED AND  
ACIDULOUS WATER.  
THEN, YOU PASS  
ALKALINE WATER  
THROUGH IT...













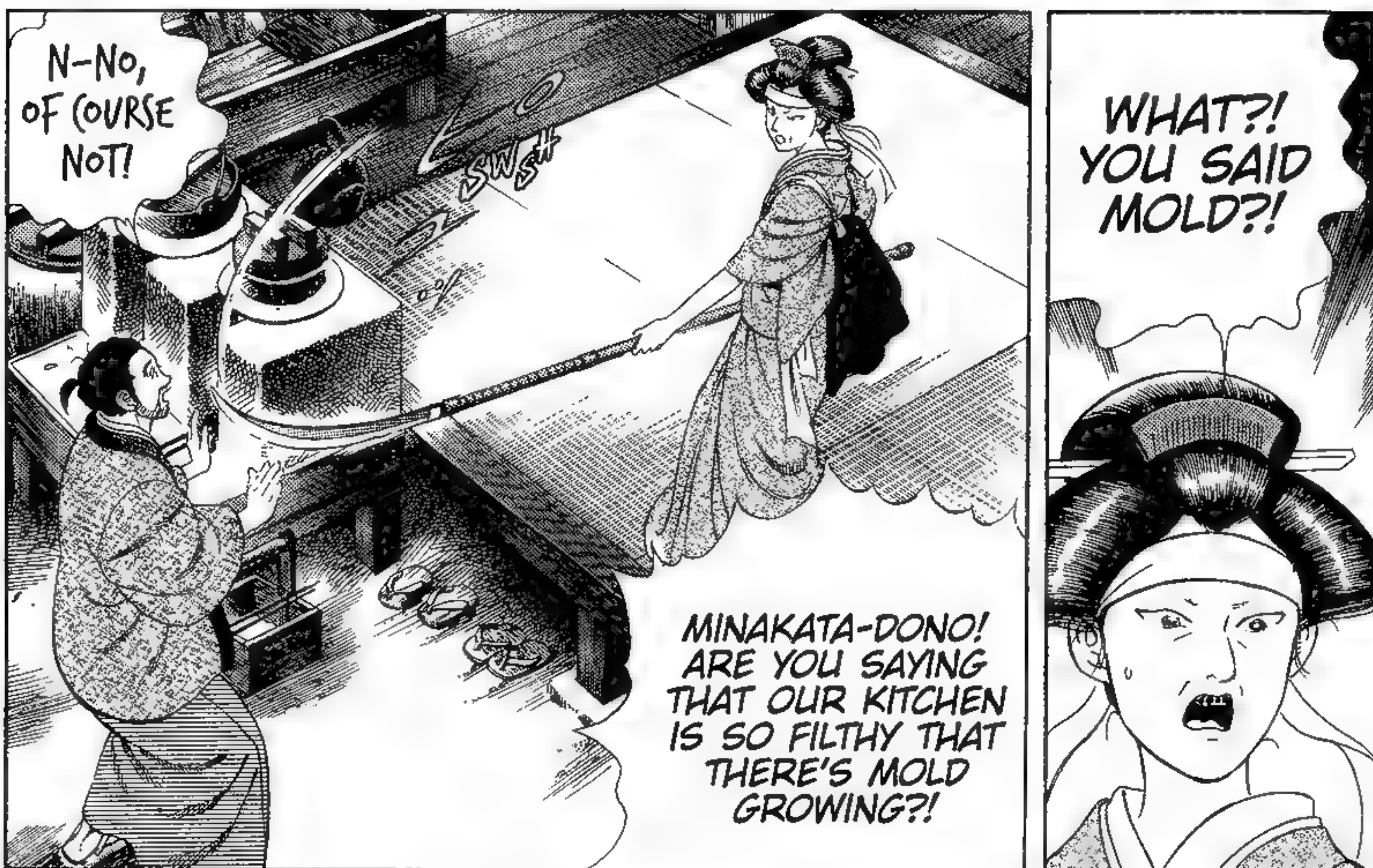
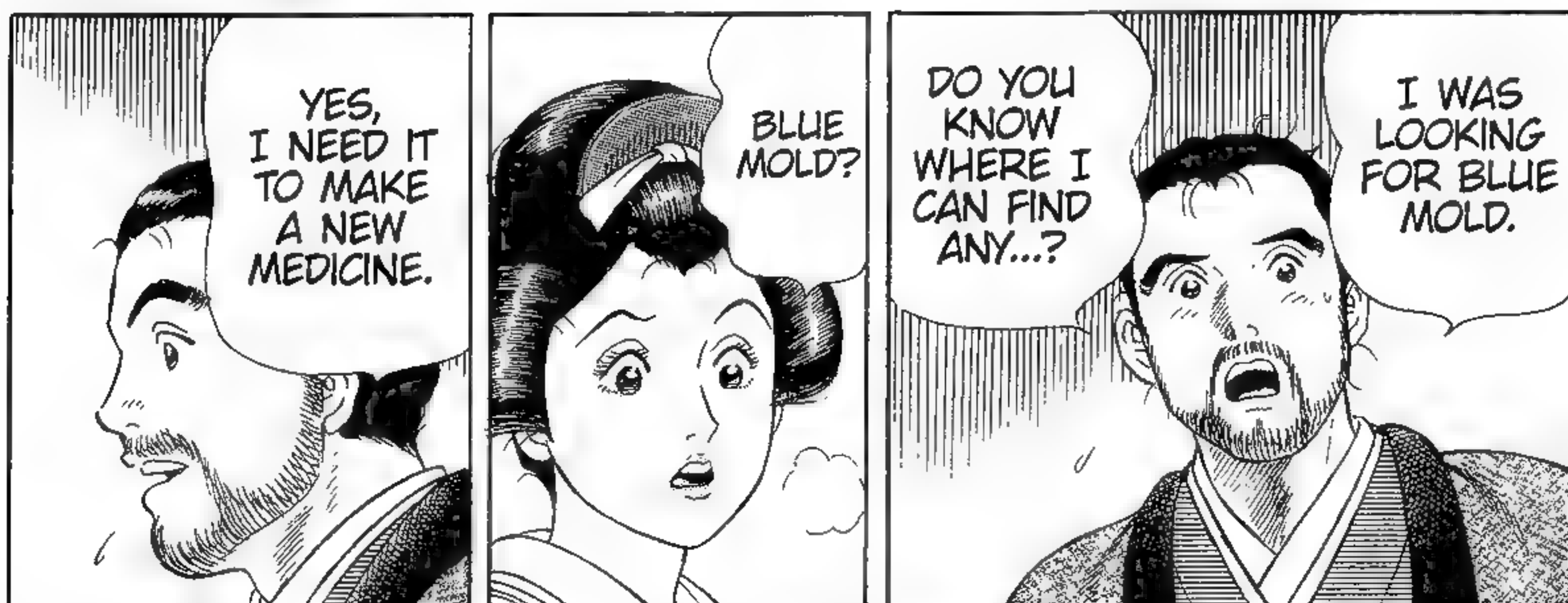
WHO'S  
HIDING  
THERE?!

WHO  
IS IT?!





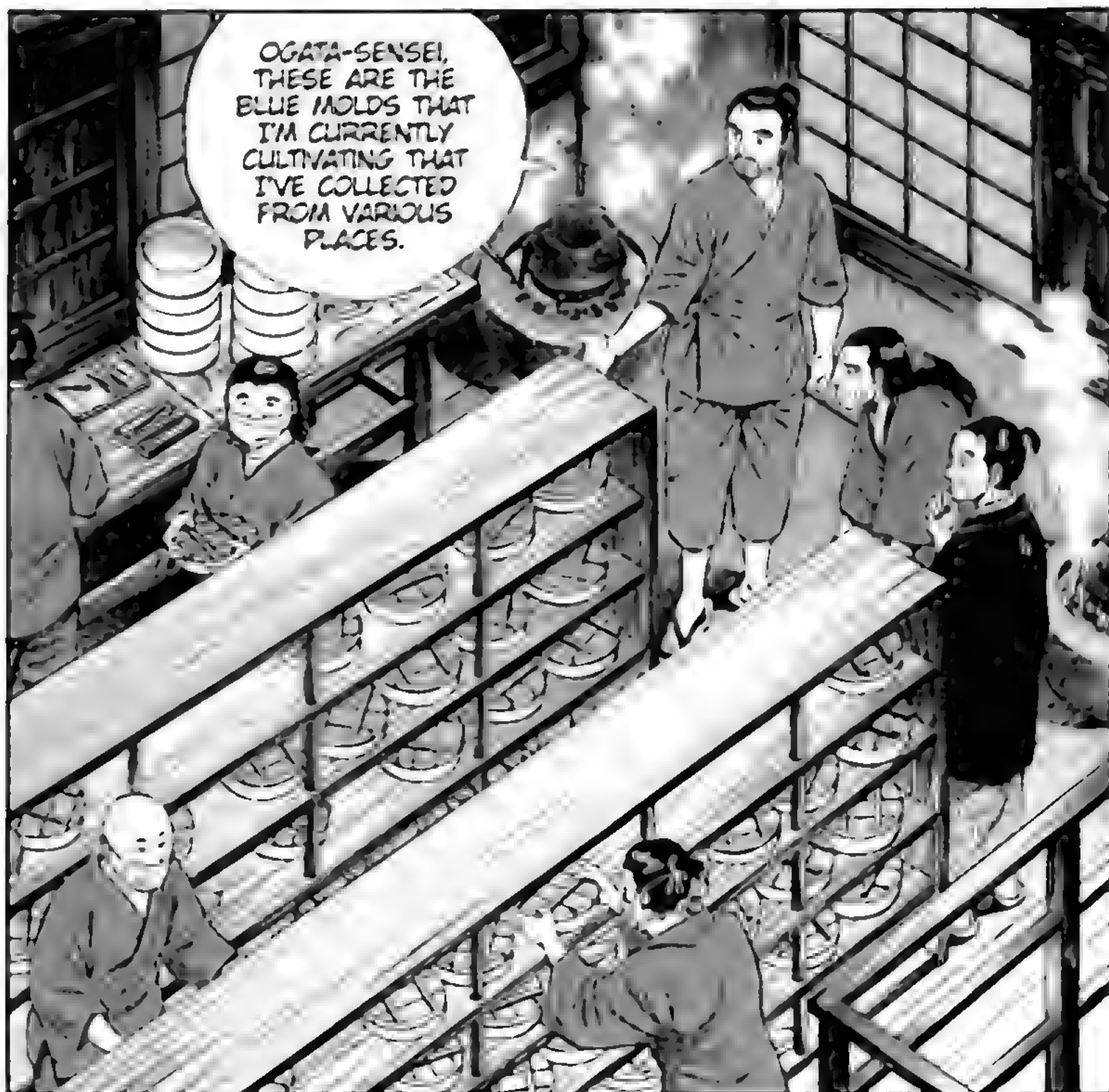




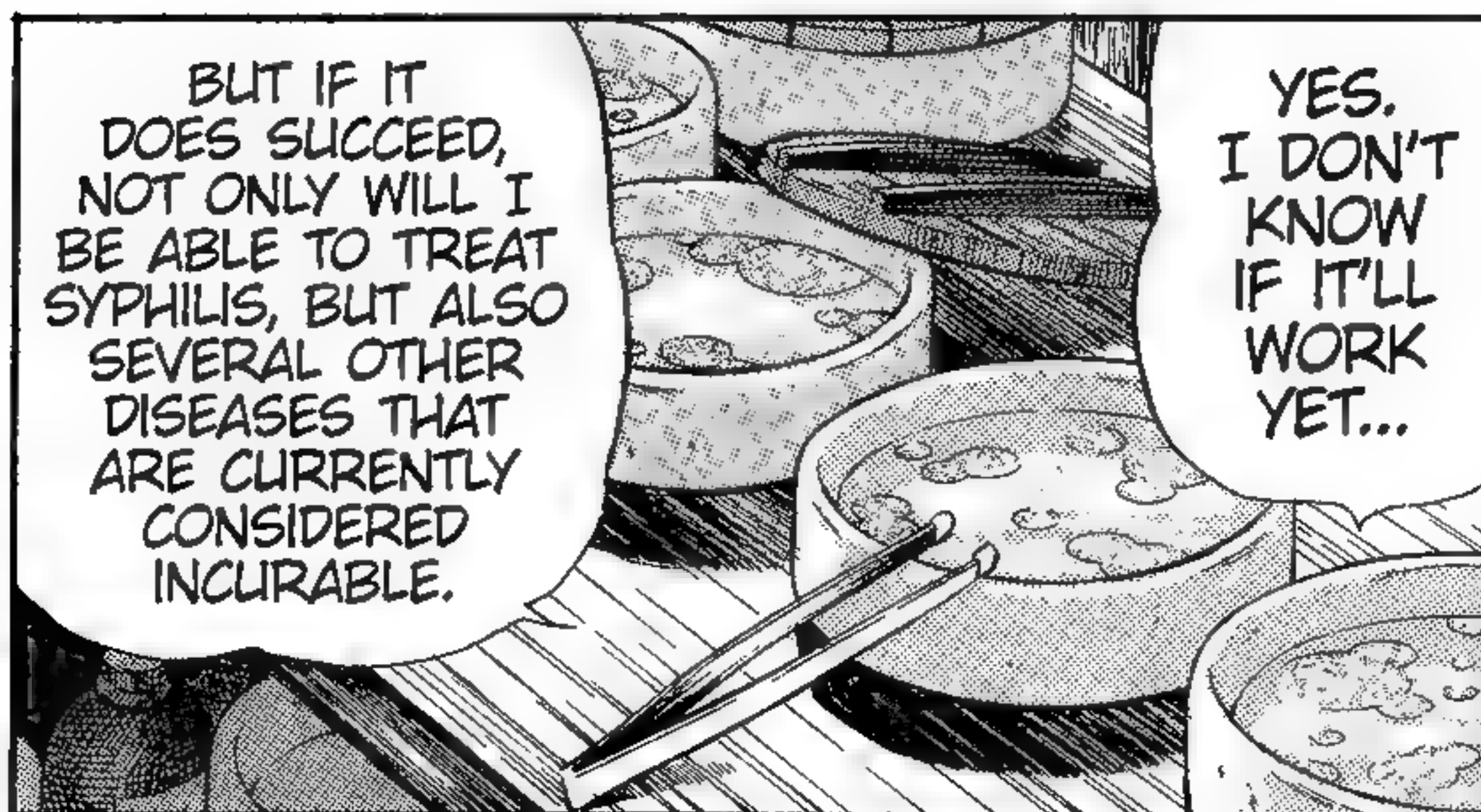












BUT IF IT DOES SUCCEED, NOT ONLY WILL I BE ABLE TO TREAT SYPHILIS, BUT ALSO SEVERAL OTHER DISEASES THAT ARE CURRENTLY CONSIDERED INCURABLE.

YES. I DON'T KNOW IF IT'LL WORK YET...



ARE YOU TRYING TO USE MOLD TO MAKE MEDICINE TO TREAT SYPHILIS?



BUT YOU HAVE A JOB TO ATTEND TO...

THANK YOU FOR YOUR OFFER...



WOULD YOU PLEASE ALLOW ME TO ASSIST YOU WITH THIS, MINAKATA-SENSEI?

THAT'S WONDERFUL! THAT WOULD CERTAINLY BE A PANACEA!



PENICILLIN!

THE NAME OF THIS MEDICINE IS...



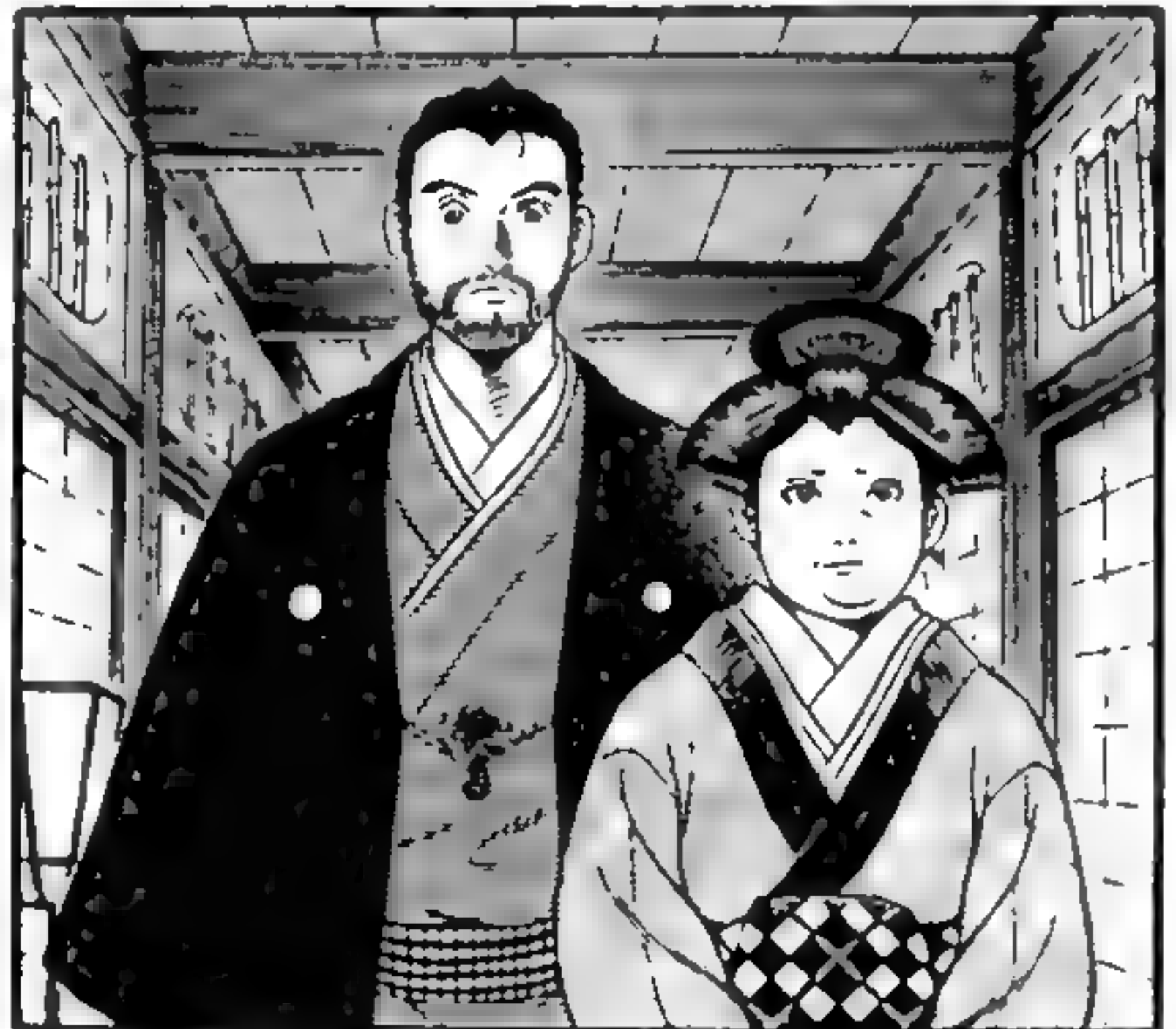
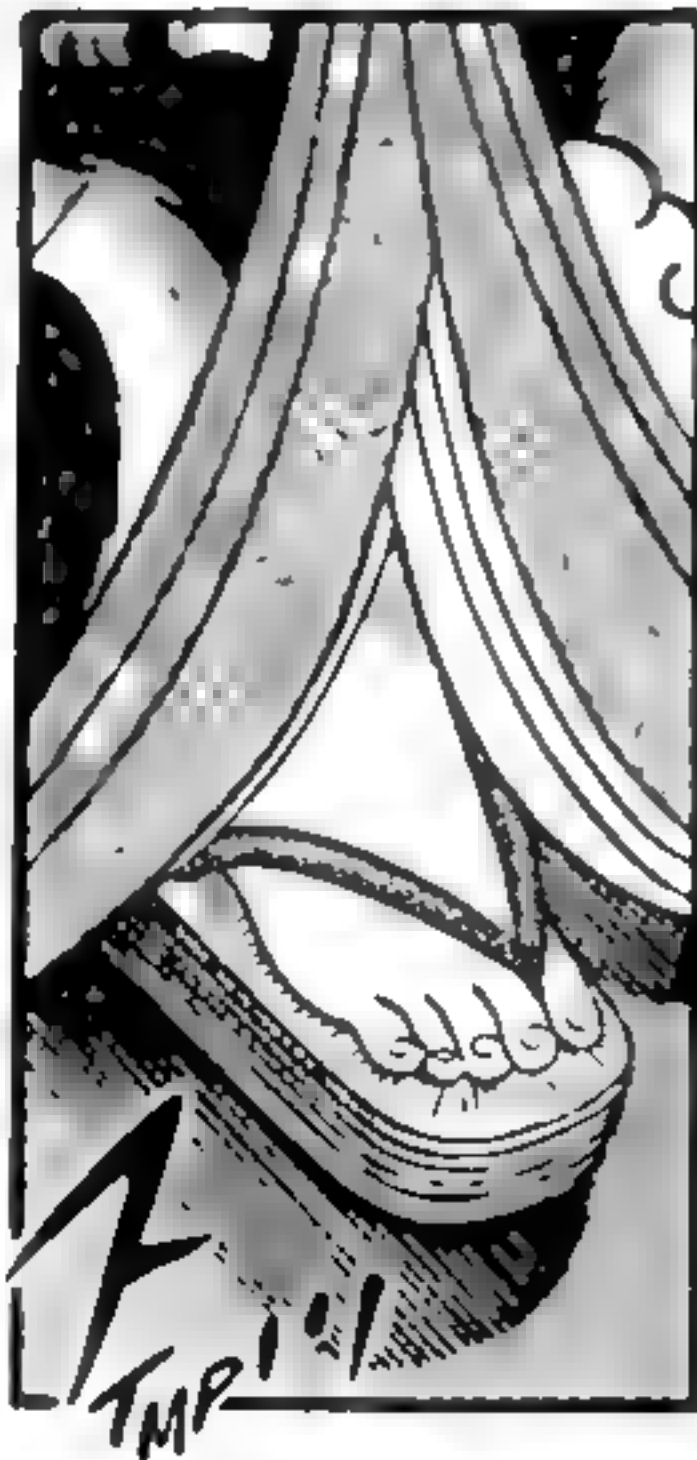
IF YOU'RE DEVELOPING A GROUND-BREAKING NEW DRUG, THEN I'D BE MORE THAN HAPPY TO HELP!

THAT'S NOT A PROBLEM. I'VE BEEN WANTING TO REPAY YOU FOR SAVING ME FROM CHOLERA.



MINAKATA-DONO, SO WHAT'S THE NAME OF THIS NEW MEDICINE?

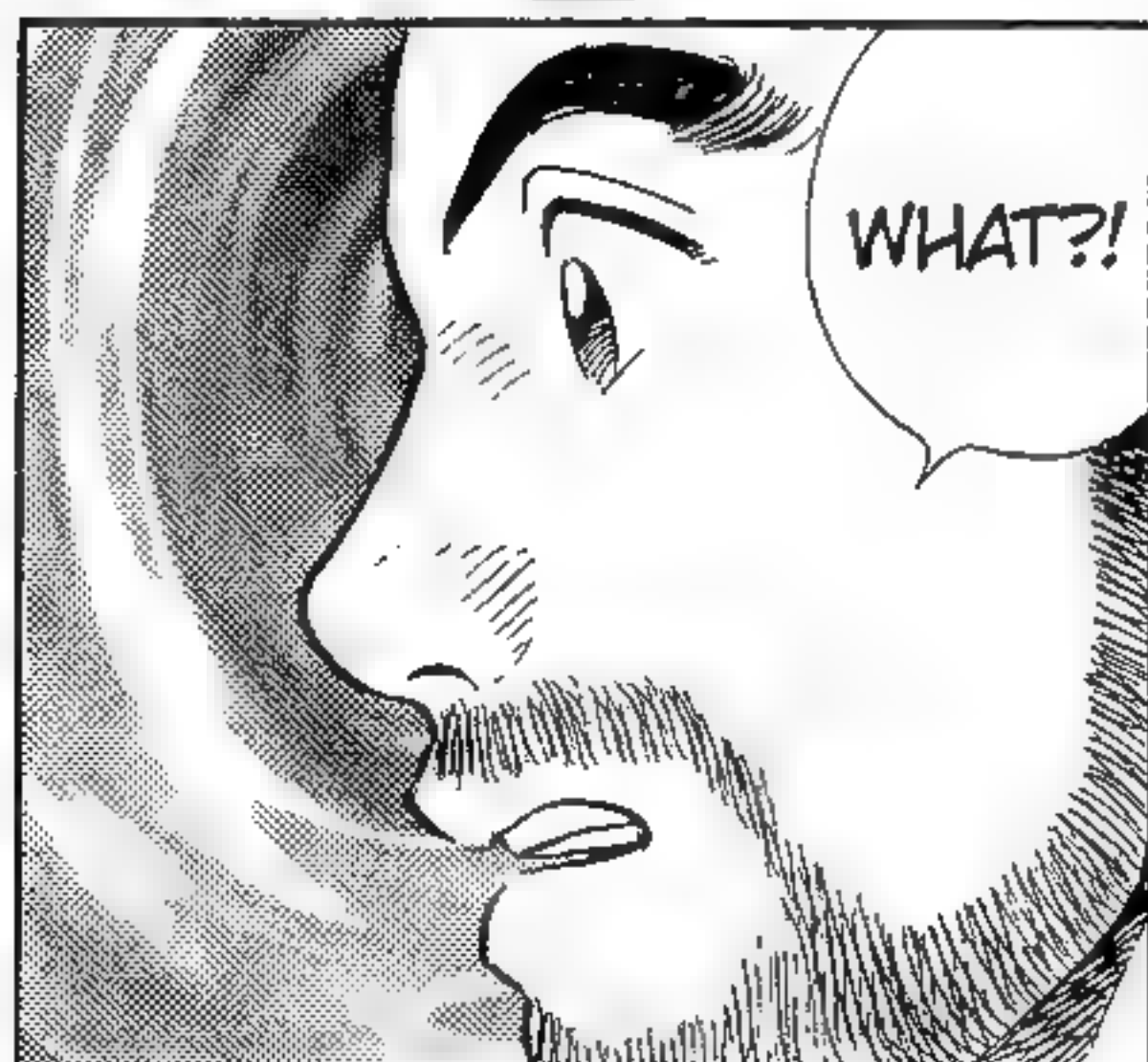




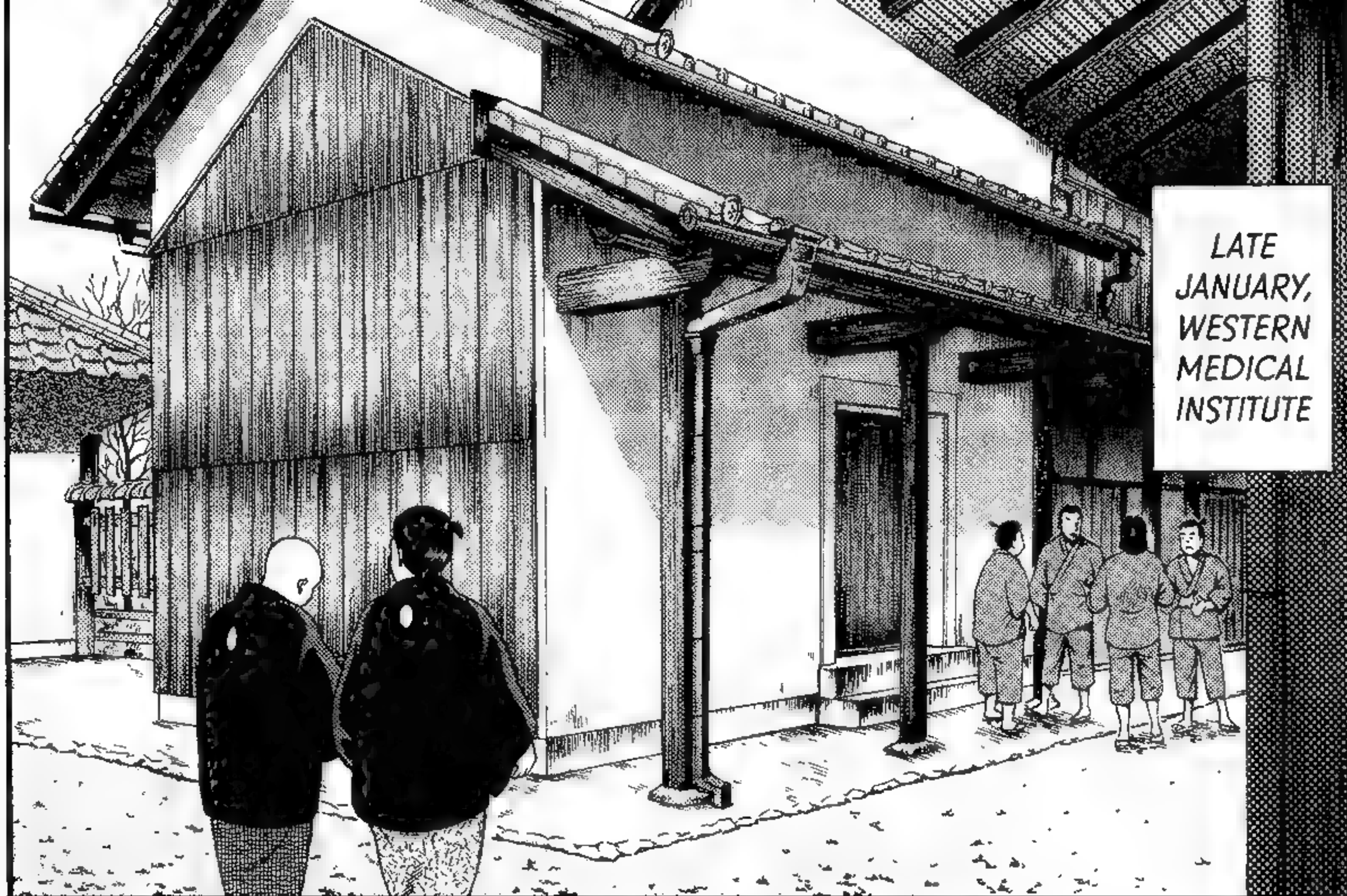




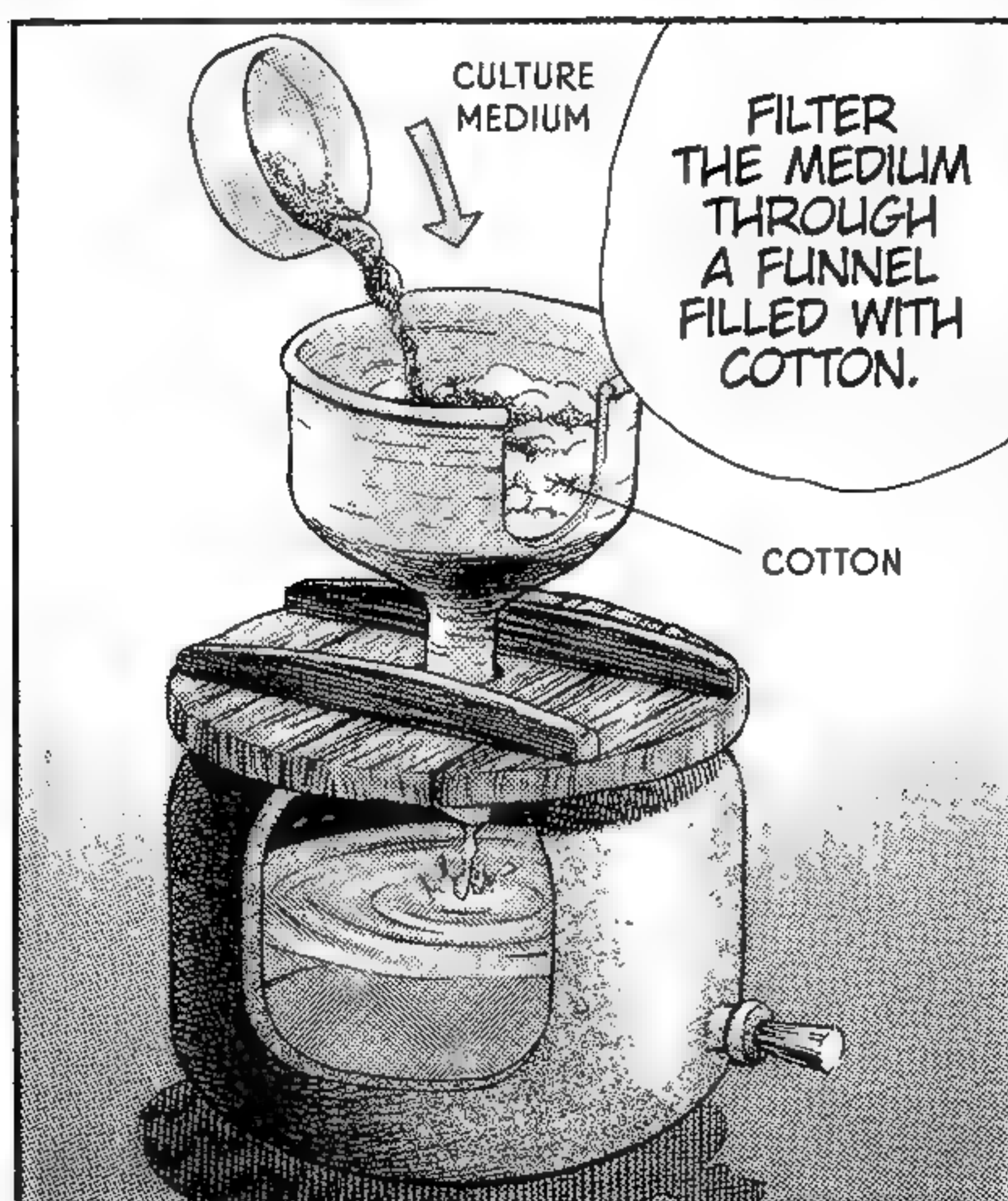








LATE  
JANUARY,  
WESTERN  
MEDICAL  
INSTITUTE



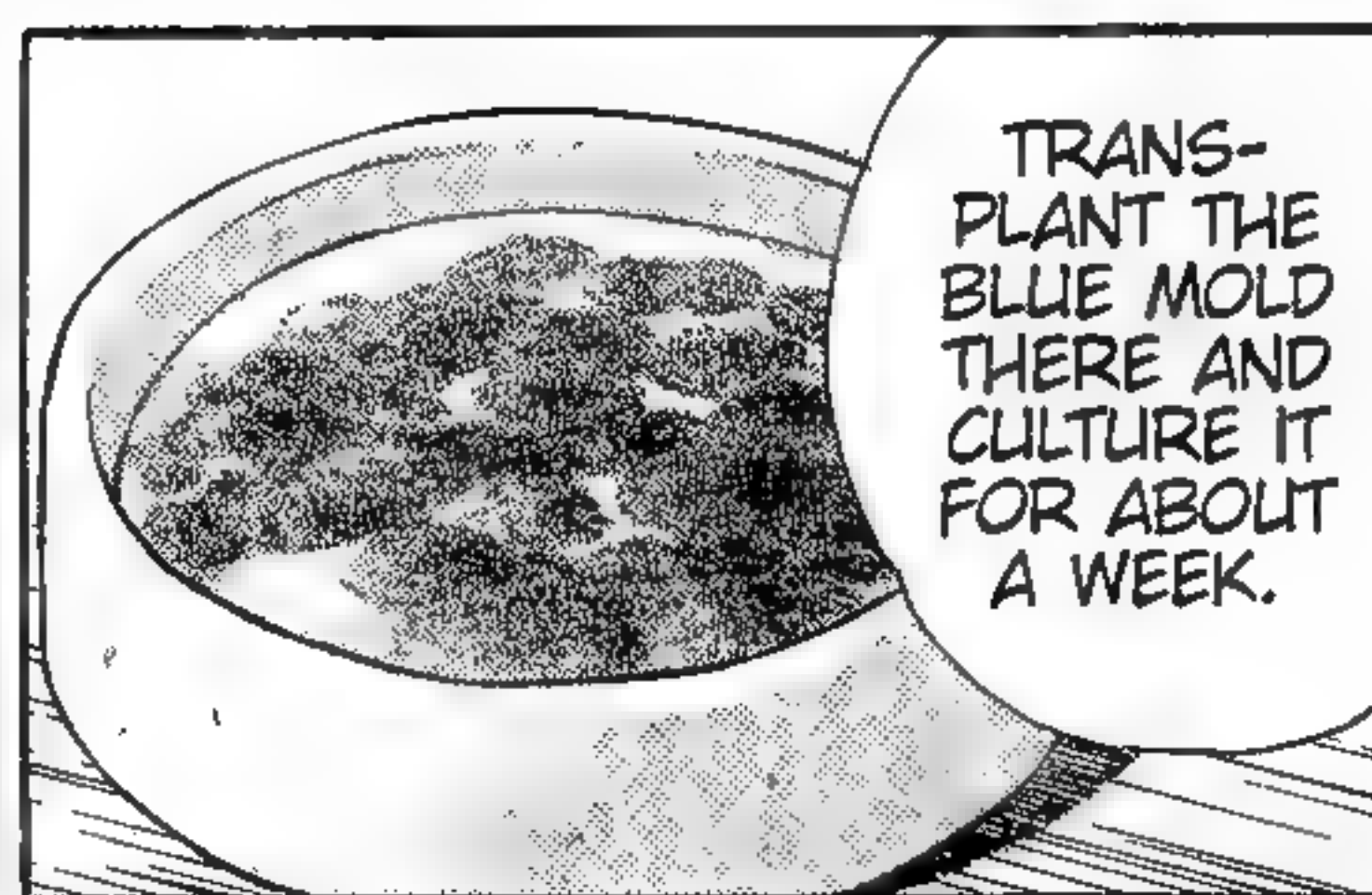
CULTURE  
MEDIUM

FILTER  
THE MEDIUM  
THROUGH  
A FUNNEL  
FILLED WITH  
COTTON.

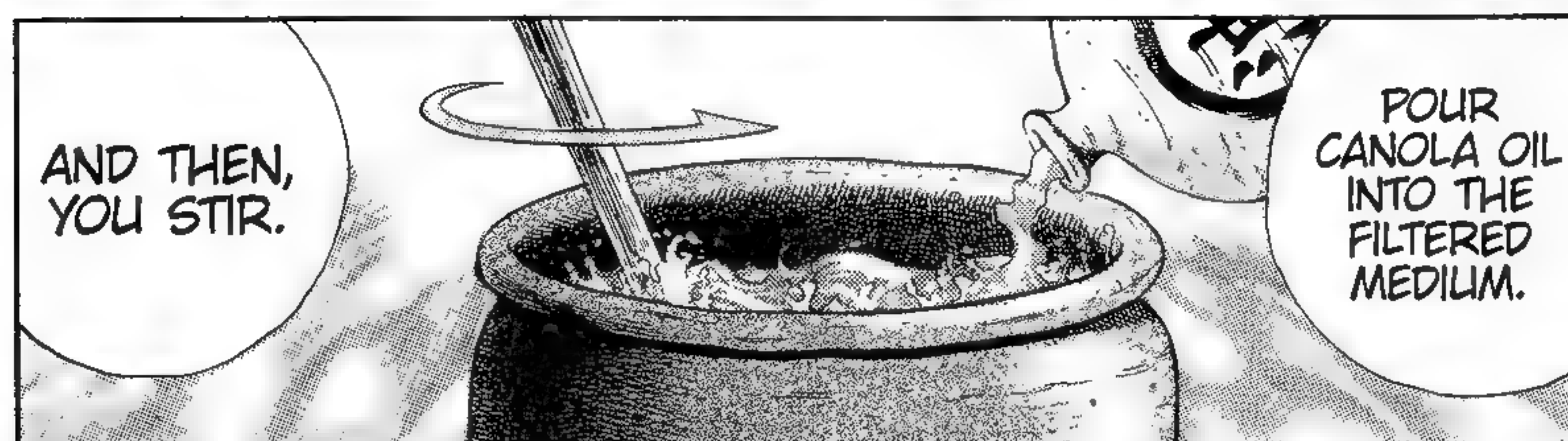
COTTON



MAKE THE  
CULTURE  
MEDIUM BY  
MIXING RICE  
WATER AND  
POTATO  
BROTH.



TRANS-  
PLANT THE  
BLUE MOLD  
THERE AND  
CULTURE IT  
FOR ABOUT  
A WEEK.



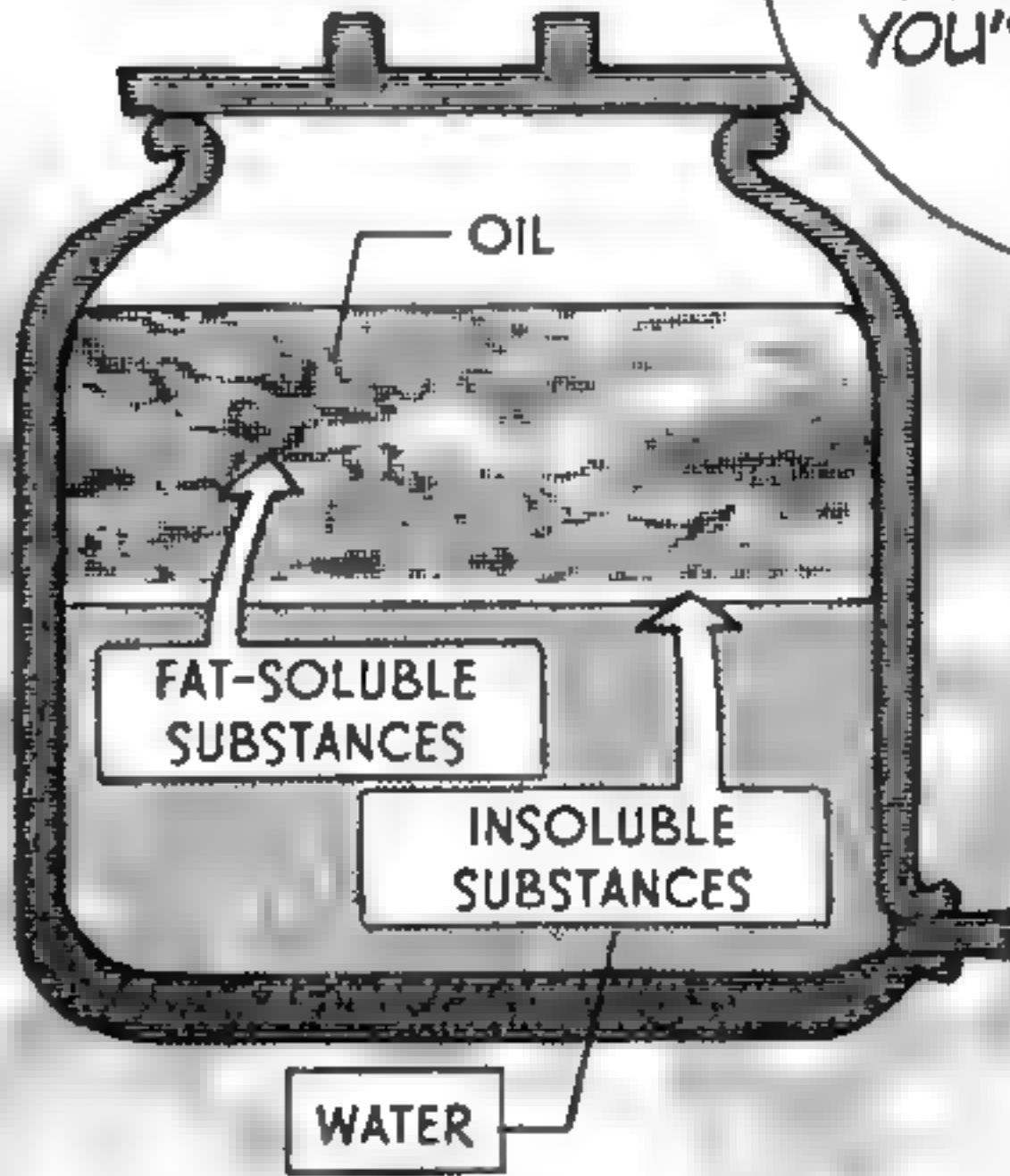
AND THEN,  
YOU STIR.

POUR  
CANOLA OIL  
INTO THE  
FILTERED  
MEDIUM.

\*THE TECHNIQUE TO MAKE PENICILLIN CAME FROM HIDEAKI HANAKI,  
PH.D. OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE MEDICINE IN THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT AT KITASATO UNIVERSITY.



\*PENICILLIN IS COMPLETELY WATER-SOLUBLE.

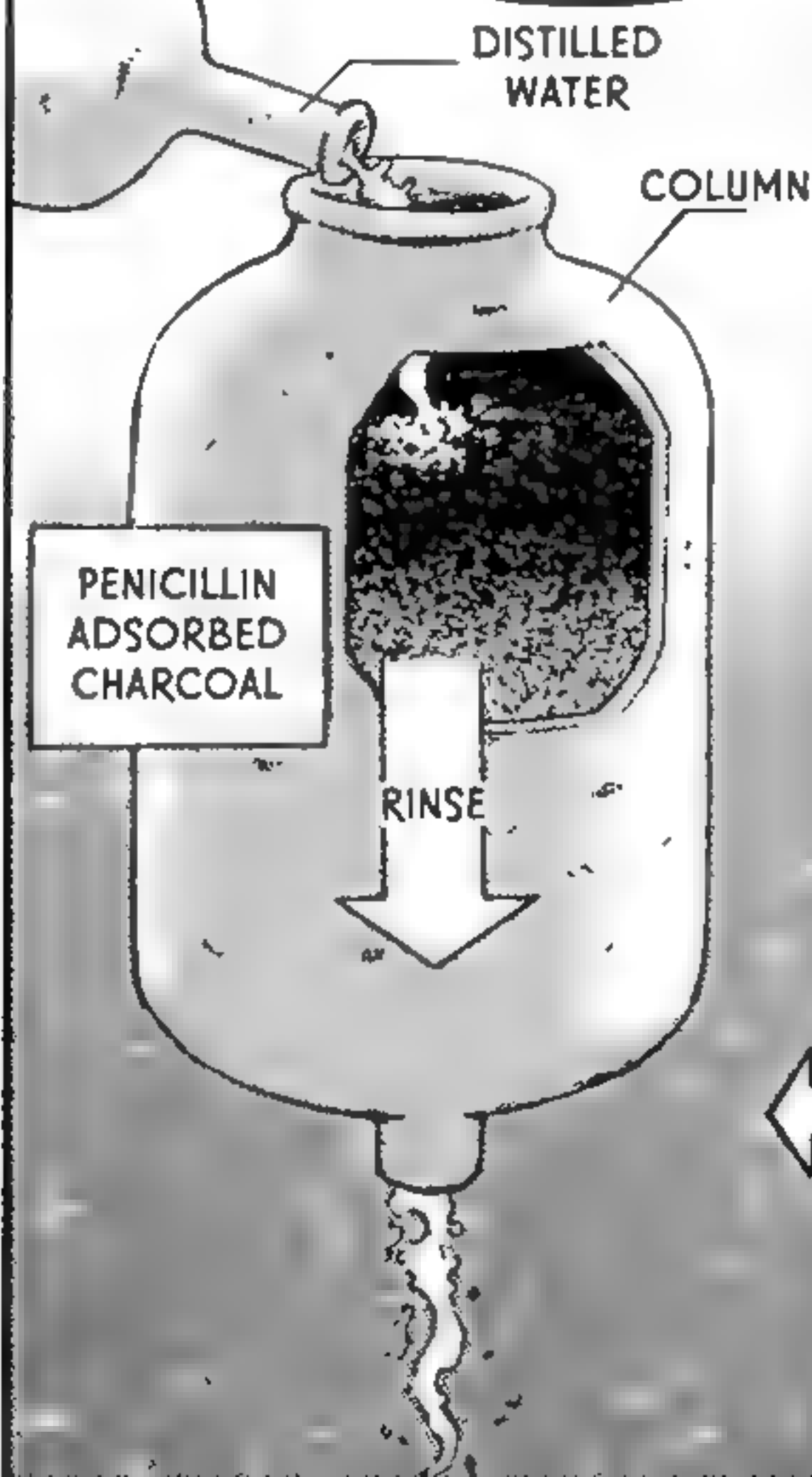


THE INSOLUBLE AND FAT-SOLUBLE SUBSTANCES FROM THE WATER THAT YOU'VE FILTERED.

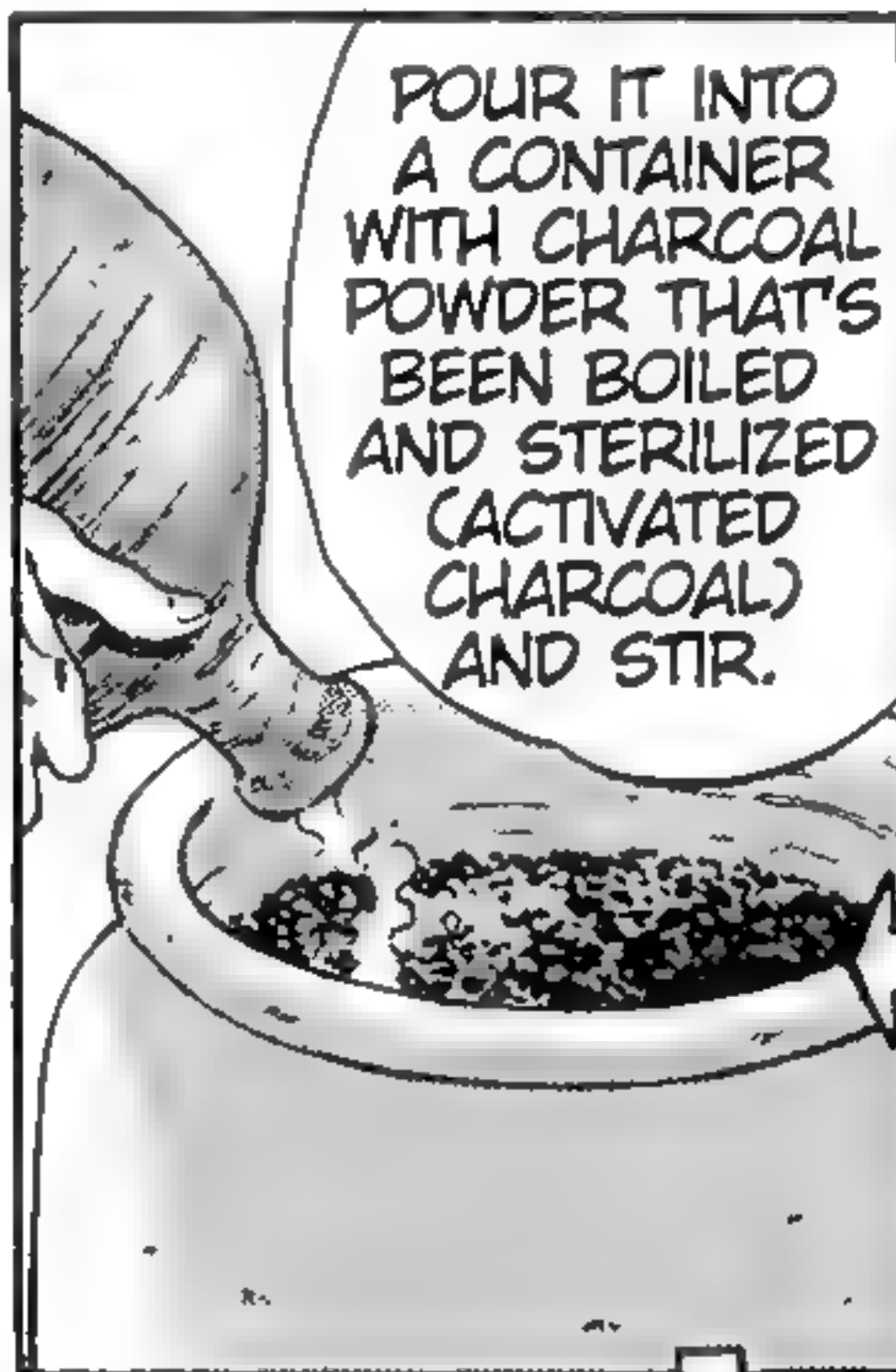
WITH THIS METHOD, YOU CAN REMOVE MOST OF...



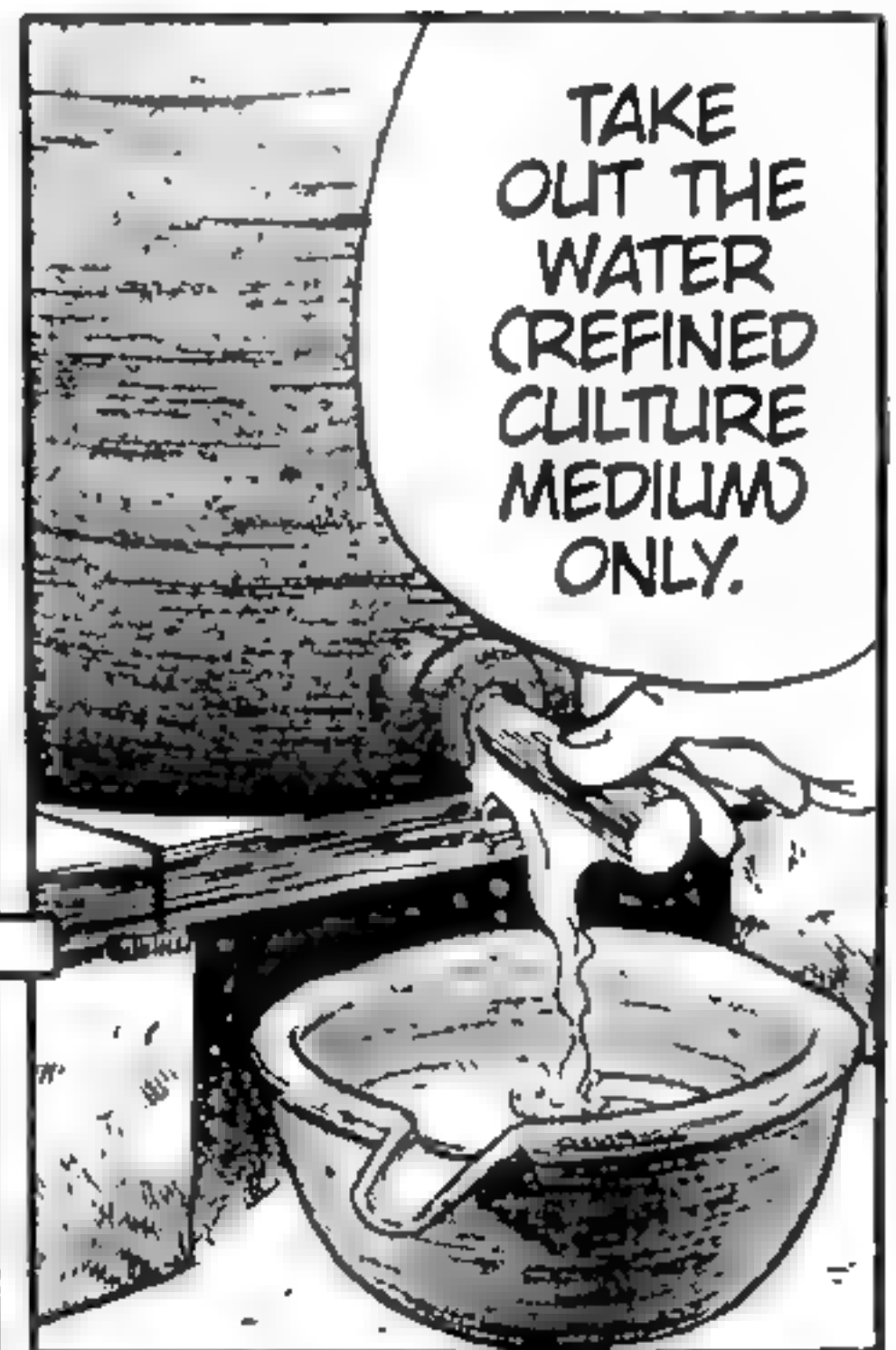
TAKE OUT THE CHARCOAL AND PUT IT INTO A COLUMN (ONE MADE USING CERAMIC HERE.) FIRST, POUR CLEAN WATER (BOILED DISTILLED WATER) THROUGH IT AND RINSE IT.



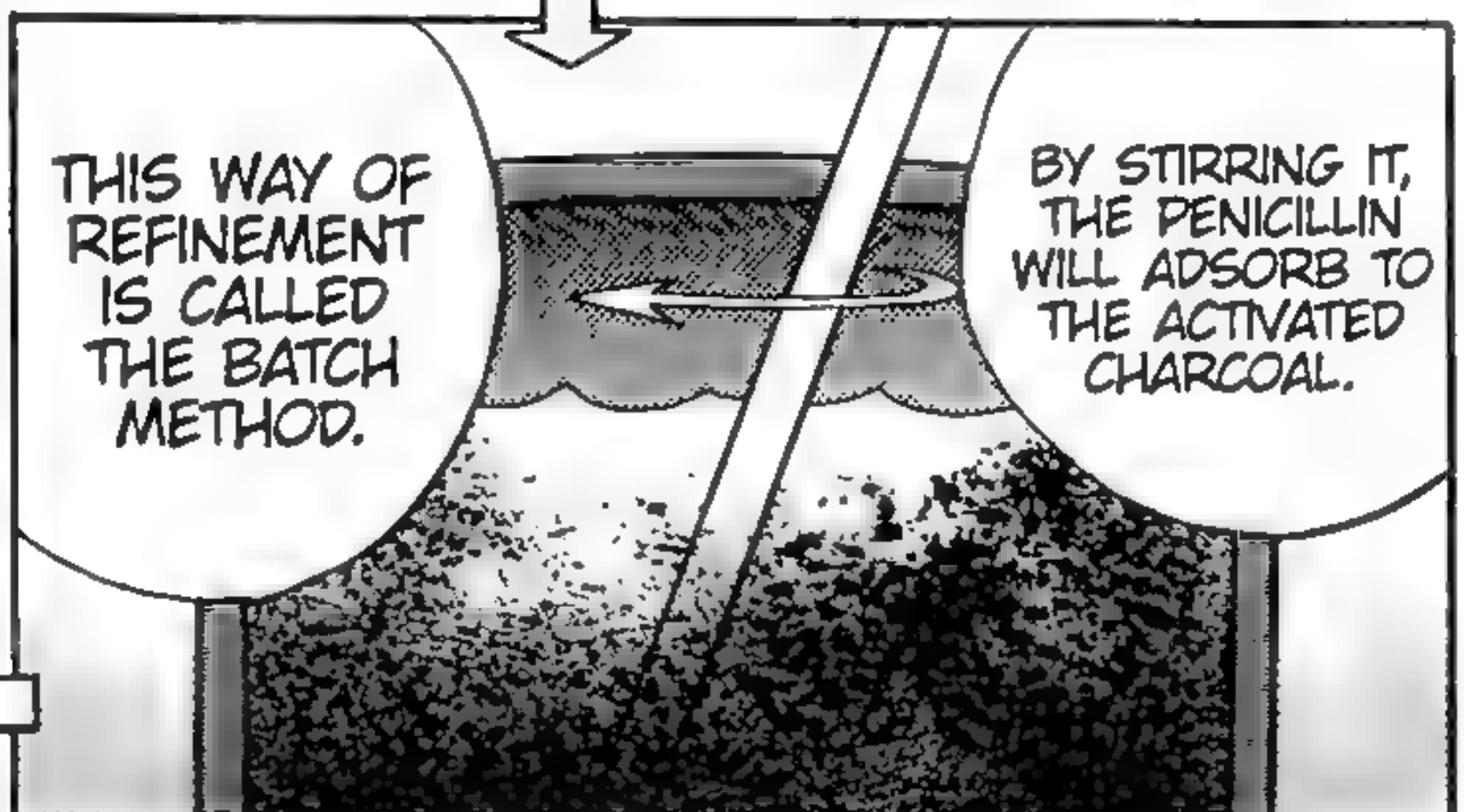
POUR IT INTO A CONTAINER WITH CHARCOAL POWDER THAT'S BEEN BOILED AND STERILIZED (ACTIVATED CHARCOAL) AND STIR.



TAKE OUT THE WATER (REFINED CULTURE MEDIUM) ONLY.

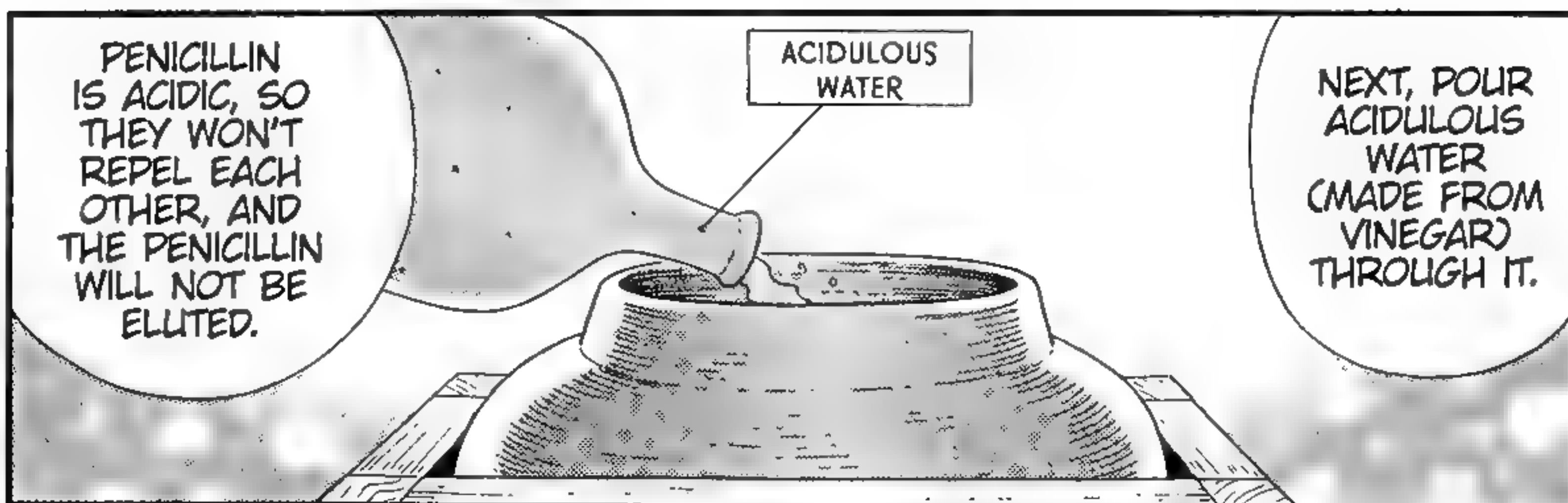


THIS WAY OF REFINEMENT IS CALLED THE BATCH METHOD.

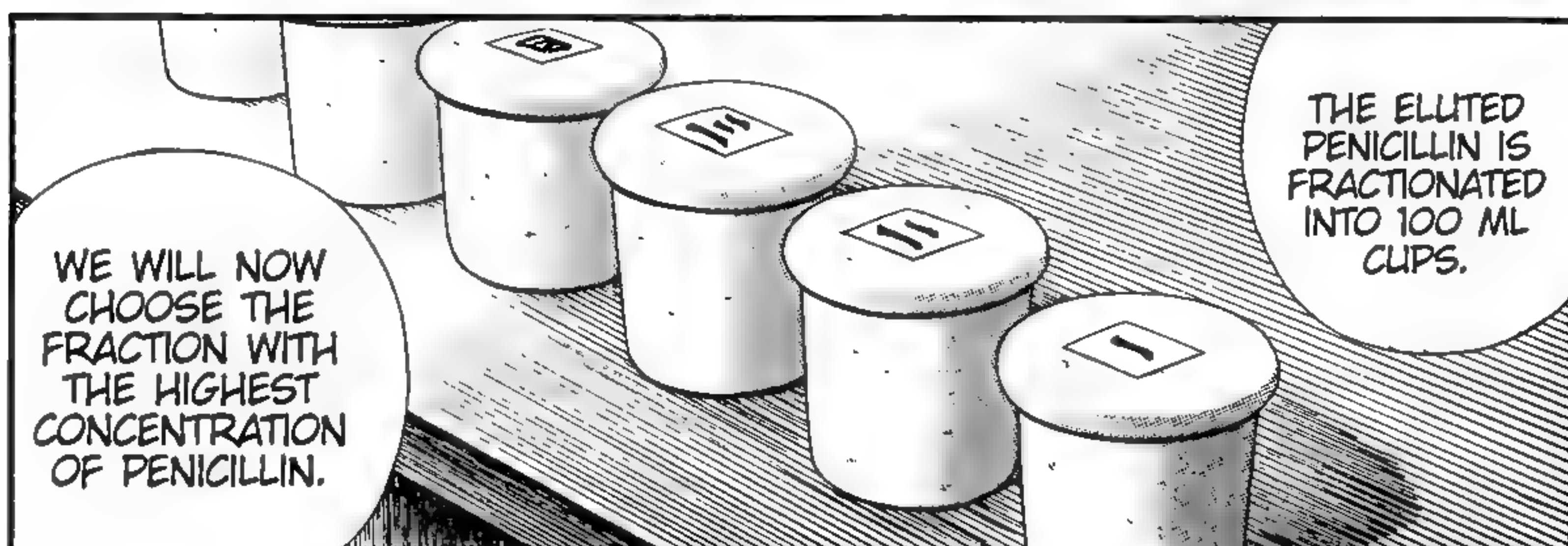
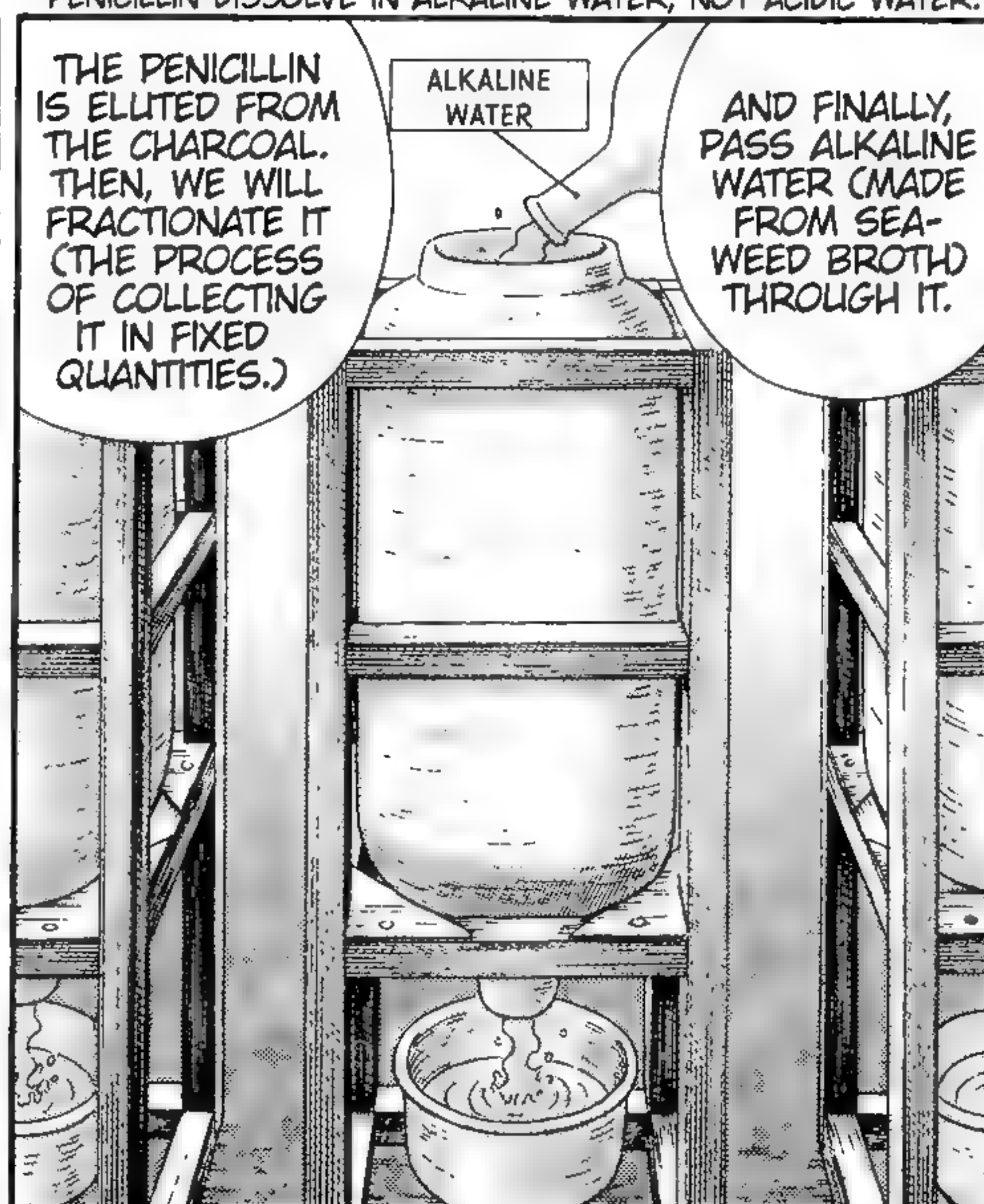
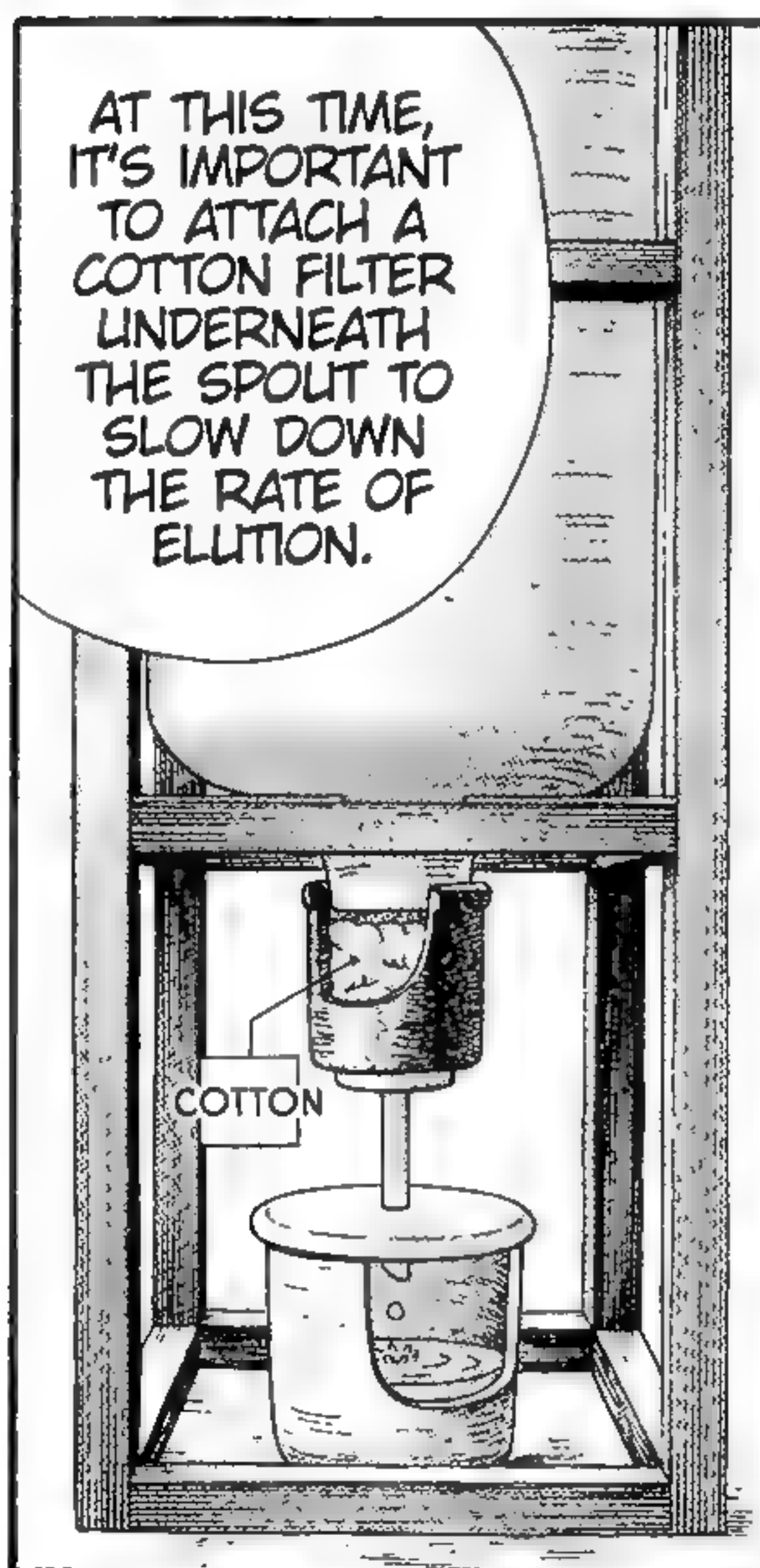


BY STIRRING IT, THE PENICILLIN WILL ADSORB TO THE ACTIVATED CHARCOAL.

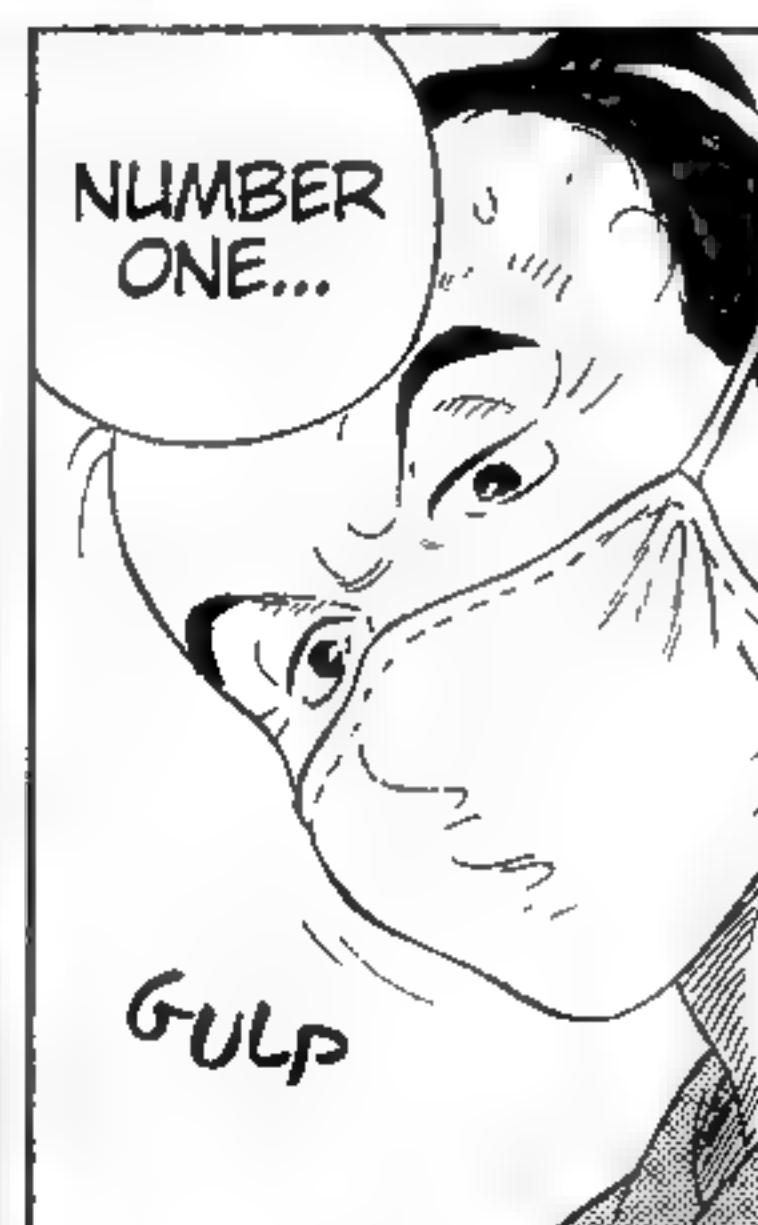
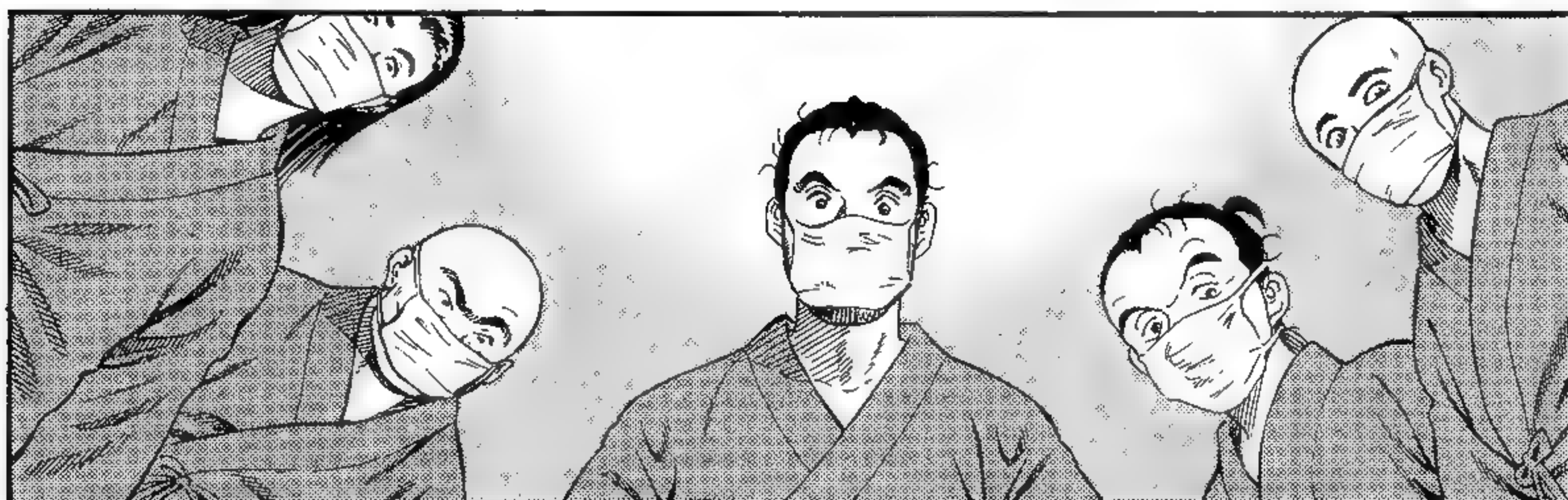
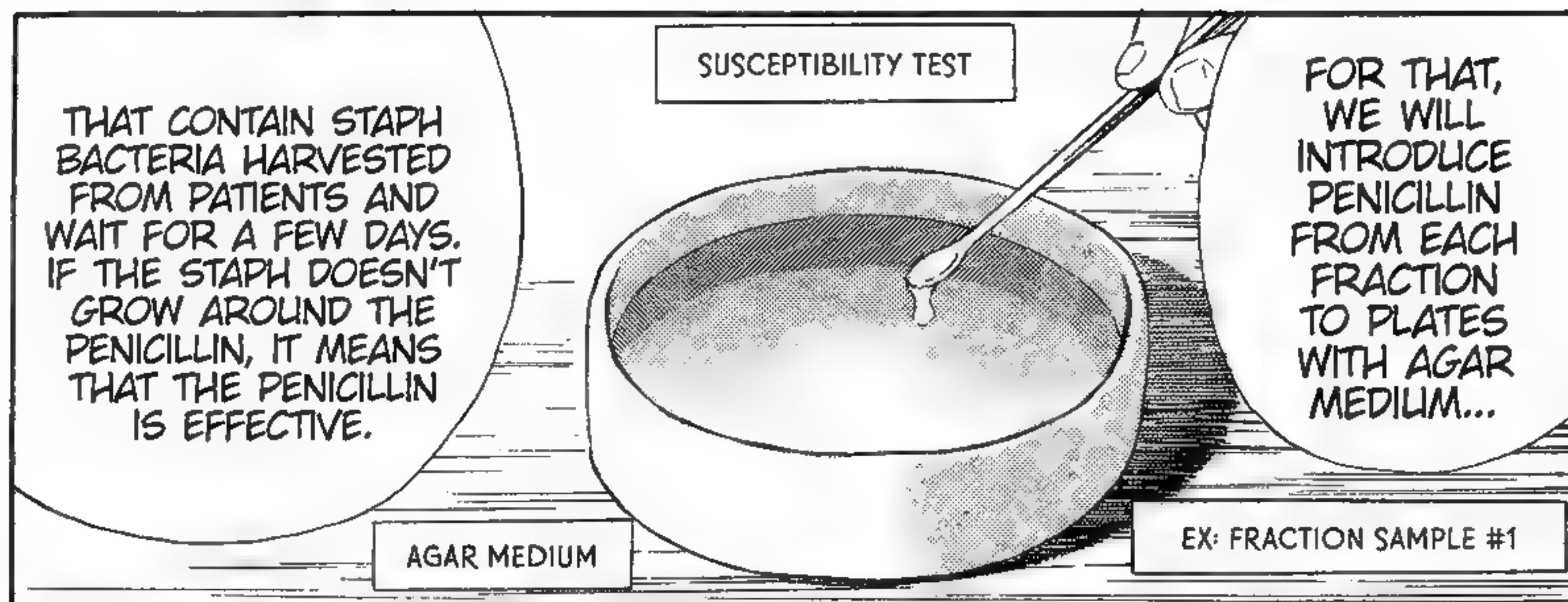




\*PENICILLIN DISSOLVE IN ALKALINE WATER, NOT ACIDIC WATER.











I-IT'S  
EFFECTIVE!



NUMBER  
SIX...



I WAS  
TREMBLING  
WITH INDE-  
SCRIBABLE  
FEAR.

AT THAT  
MOMENT...



NUMBER  
SEVEN,  
EFFECTIVE!



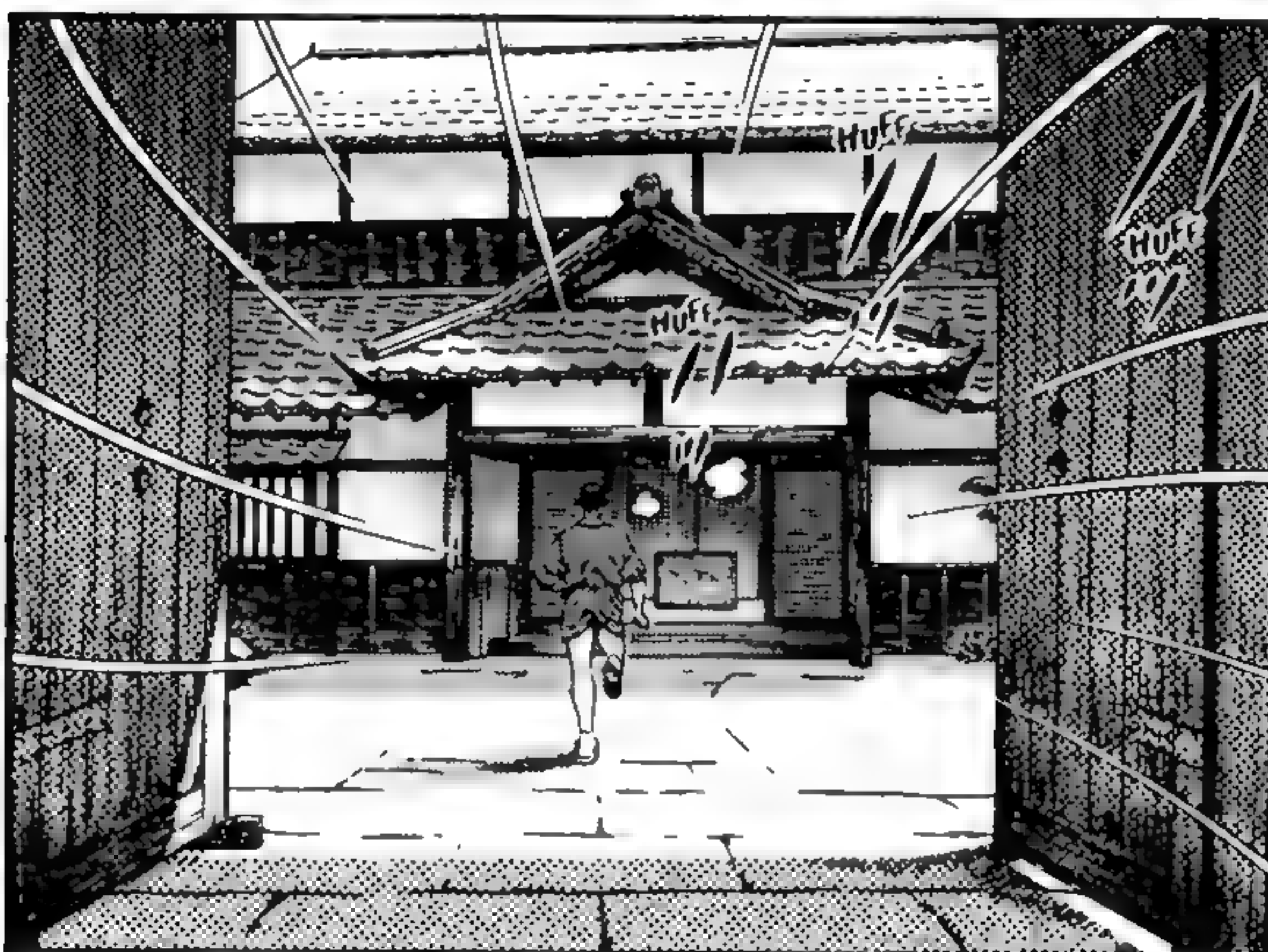
NUMBER  
EIGHT,  
EFFECTIVE!



NO MATTER  
HOW MODEST AN  
AMOUNT IT MAY BE,  
IS IT SOMETHING  
THAT WILL REALLY  
BE ALLOWED?!

THERE IT WAS,  
RIGHT IN FRONT  
OF MY VERY EYES,  
PENICILLIN, WHICH  
WAS SUPPOSED TO  
BE DISCOVERED  
BY FLEMING 65  
YEARS LATER.





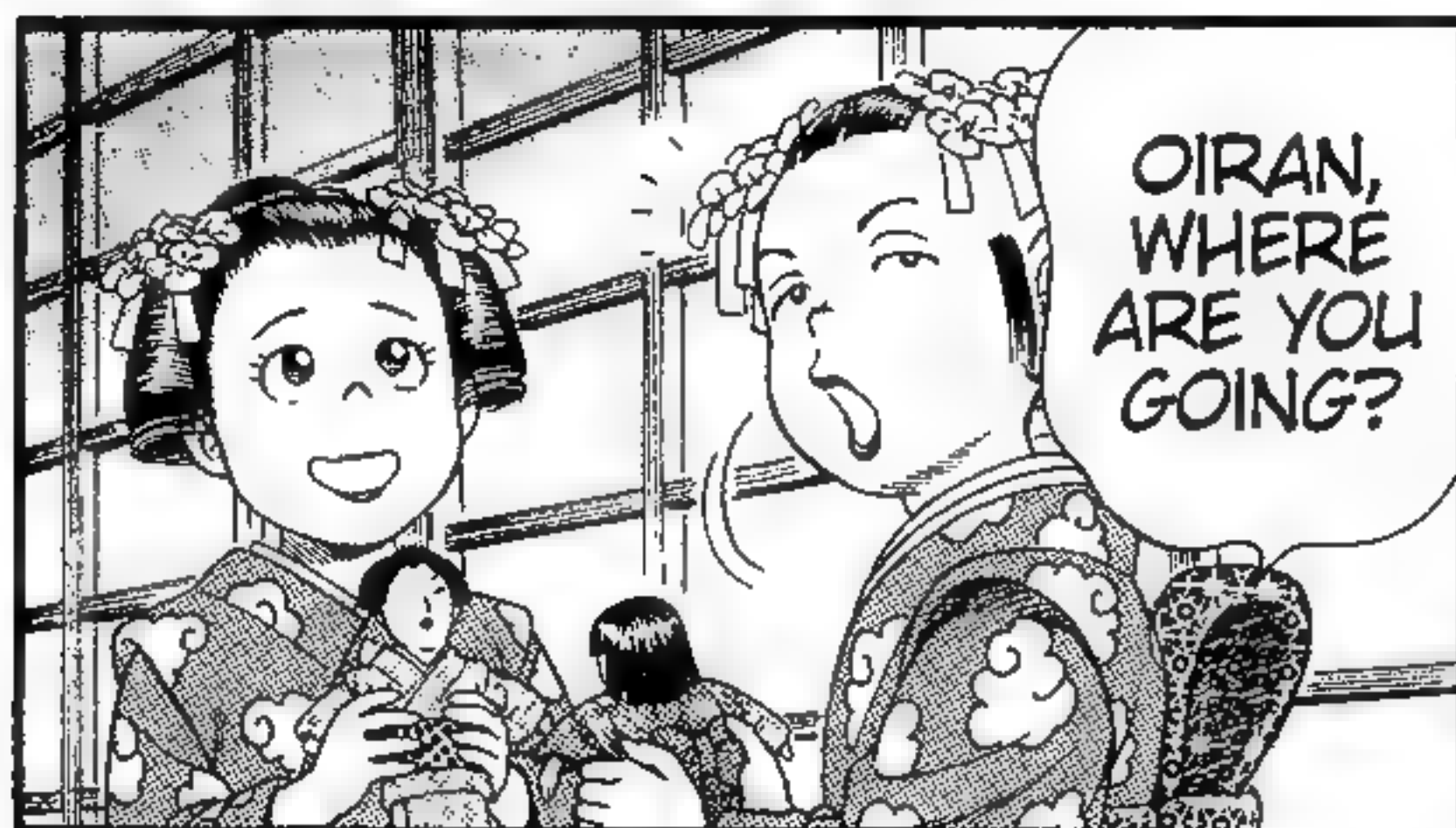
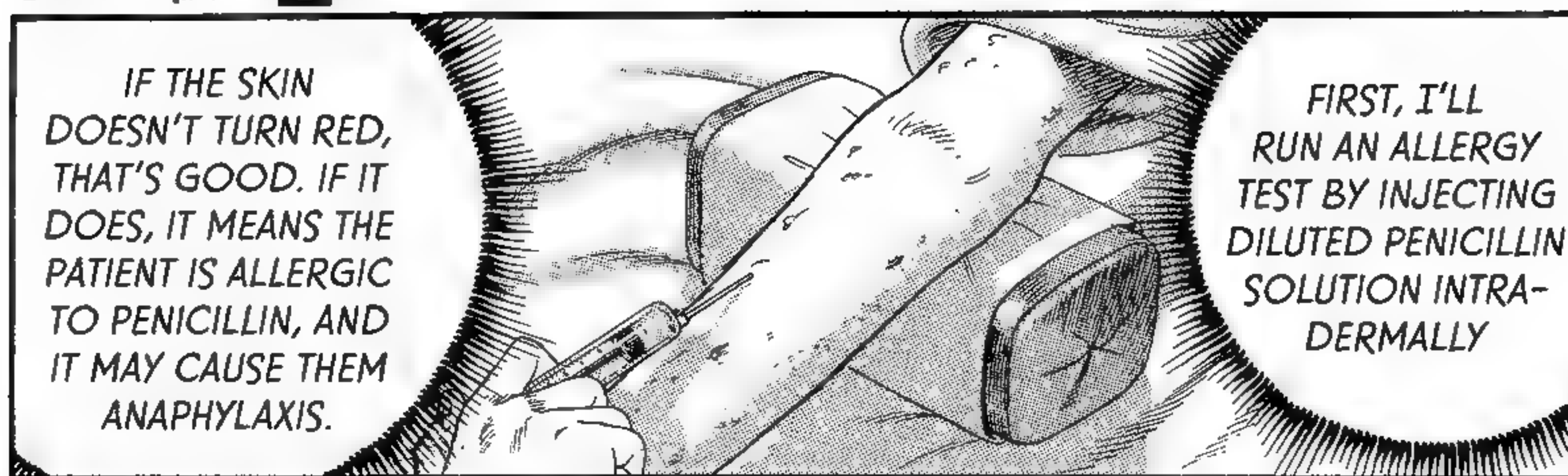
\*WESTERN MEDICAL INSTITUTE









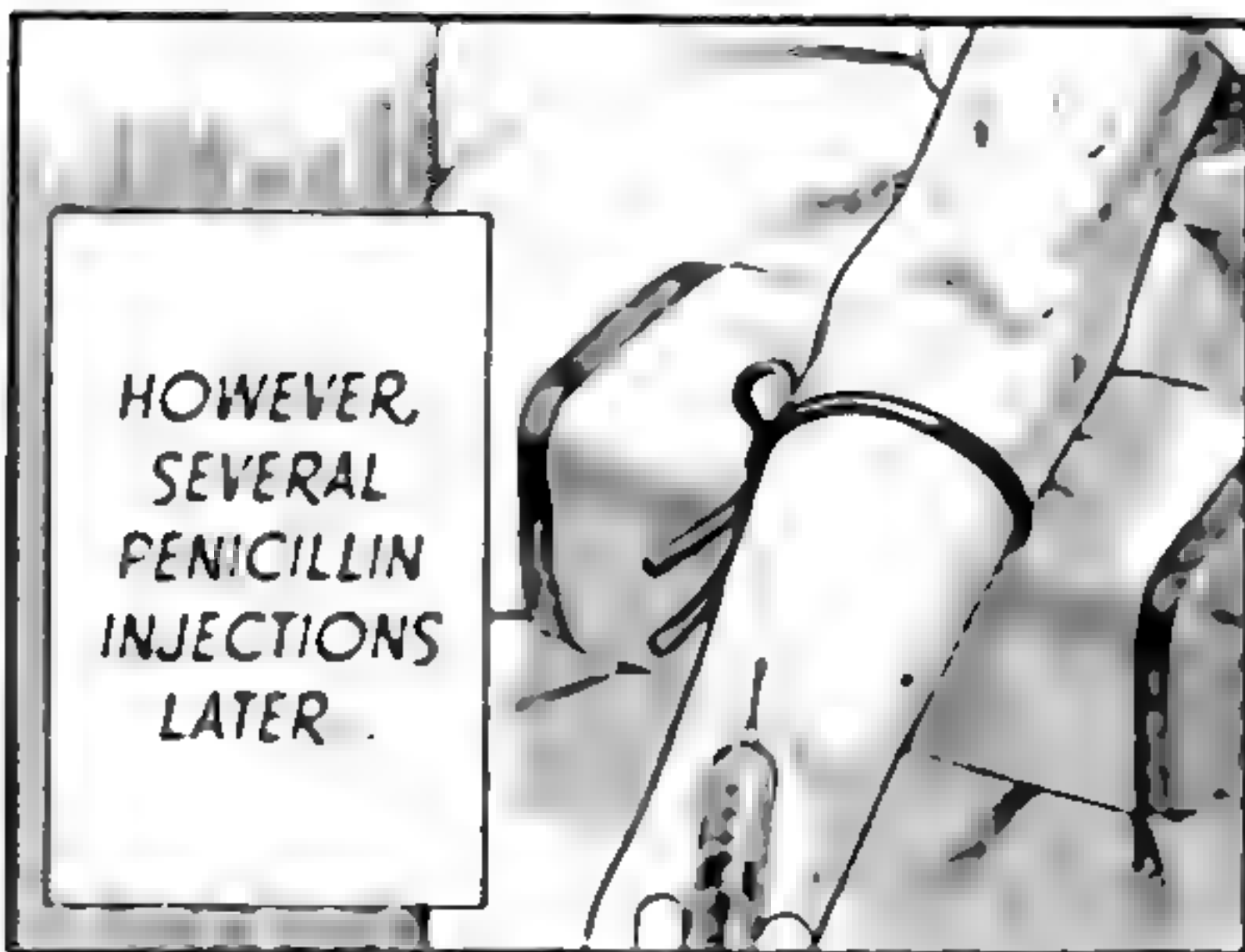




I IMMEDIATELY  
ADMINISTERED  
THE PENICILLIN  
TO YUGIRI VIA  
INTRAVENOUS  
DRIP AND  
INJECTION



HOWEVER,  
SEVERAL  
PENICILLIN  
INJECTIONS  
LATER .



SHE WAS IN  
SUCH SERIOUS  
CONDITION  
THAT SHE HAD  
SLIPPED INTO  
A COMA AND  
LOOKED SHE  
WAS ABOUT  
TO DIE .







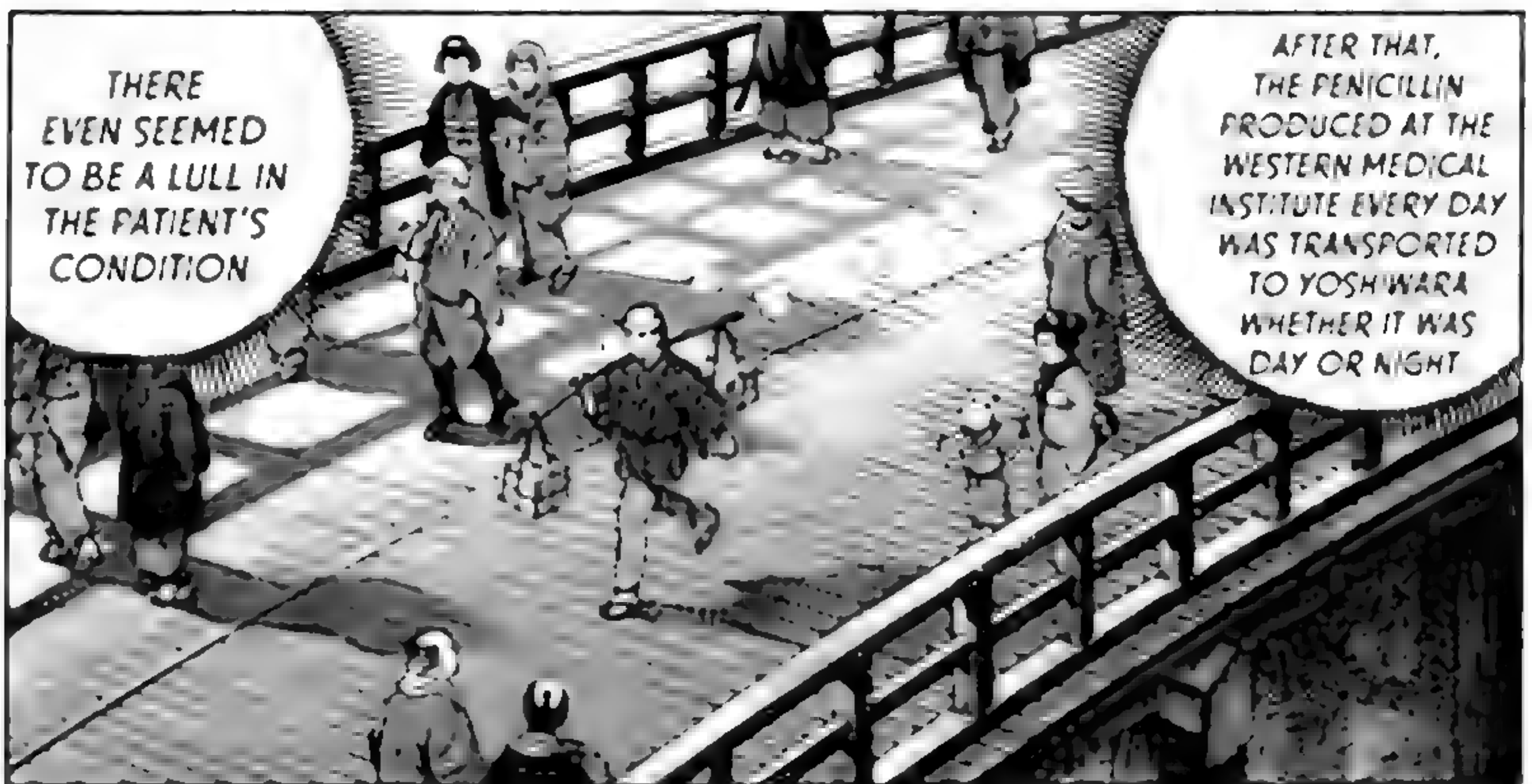




...

THE PENICILLIN WE  
MADE HAD CERTAINLY  
DEALT A BLOW TO THE  
TREPONEMA BACTERIA  
THAT WAS CAUSING  
THE SYPHILIS

IT LOOKED  
LIKE IT WAS  
A DRAMATIC  
RECOVERY.



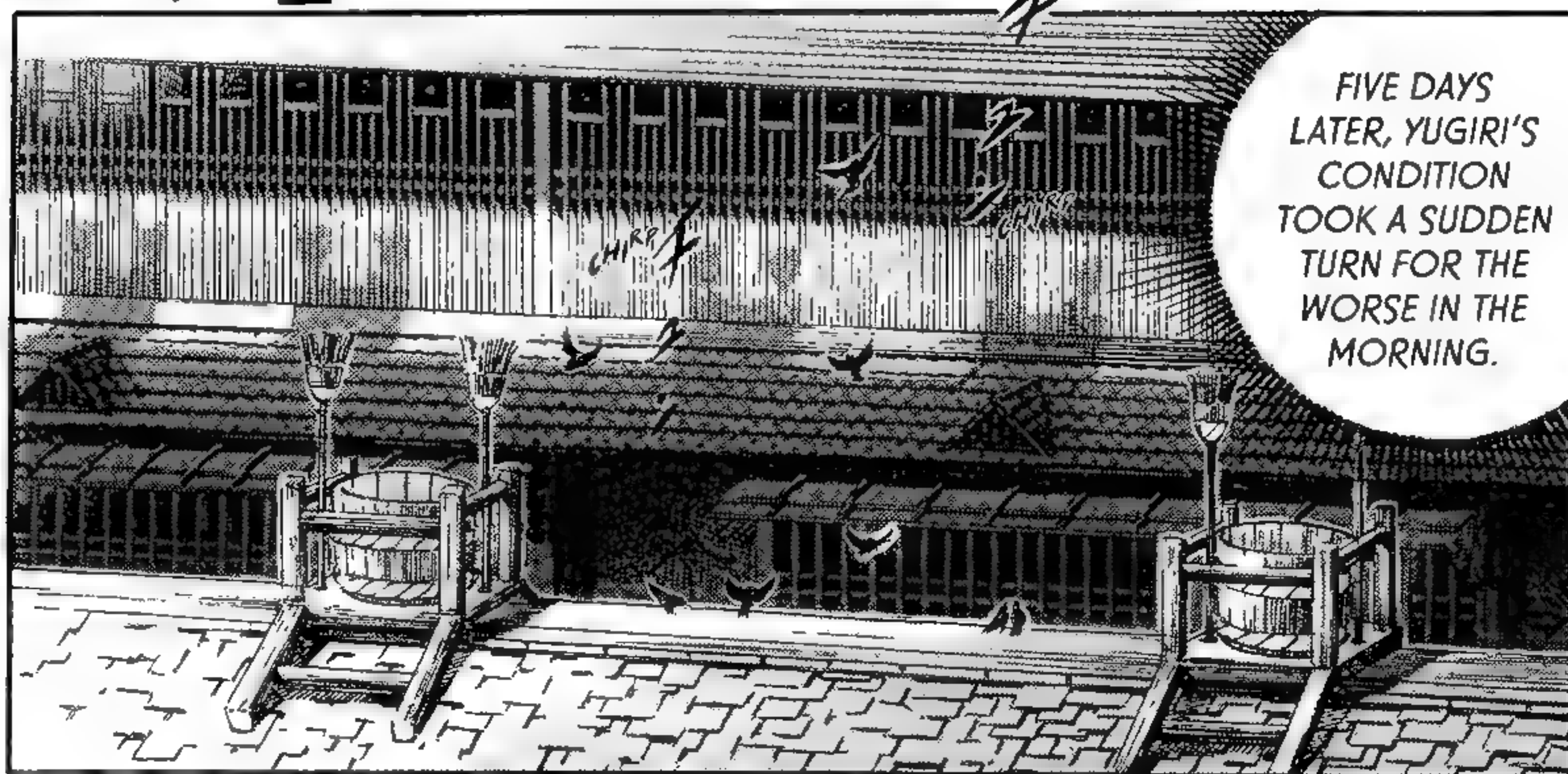
THERE  
EVEN SEEMED  
TO BE A LULL IN  
THE PATIENT'S  
CONDITION

AFTER THAT,  
THE PENICILLIN  
PRODUCED AT THE  
WESTERN MEDICAL  
INSTITUTE EVERY DAY  
WAS TRANSPORTED  
TO YOSHIWARA  
WHETHER IT WAS  
DAY OR NIGHT

AND ITS  
EFFECTIVENESS  
WAS UNSTABLE

BUT THE  
AMOUNT OF  
PENICILLIN WE  
COULD MAKE  
THIS WAY WAS  
SO LIMITED

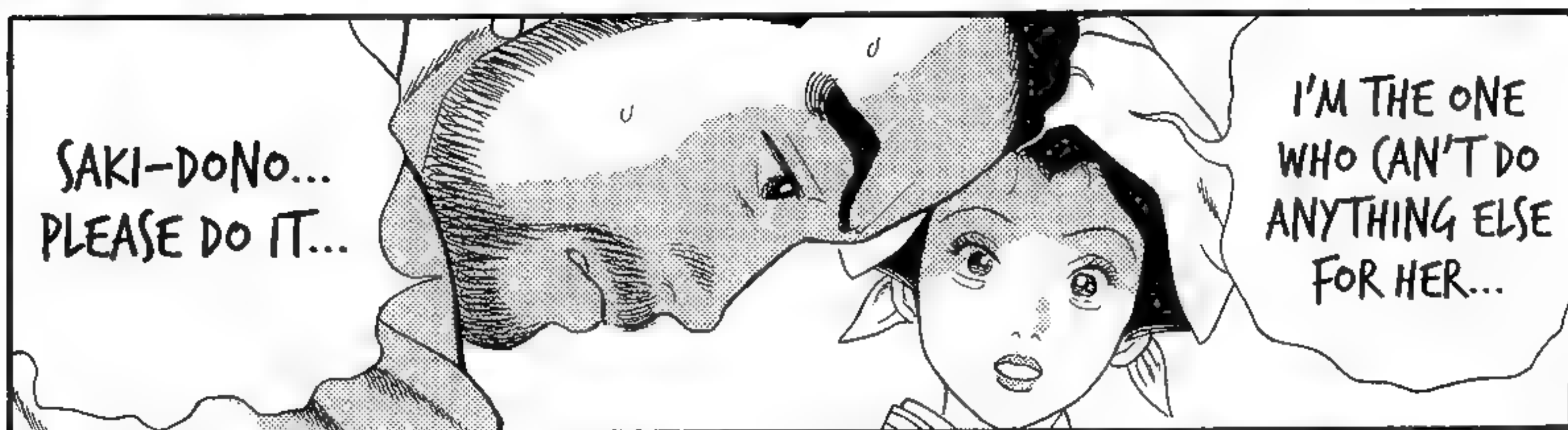








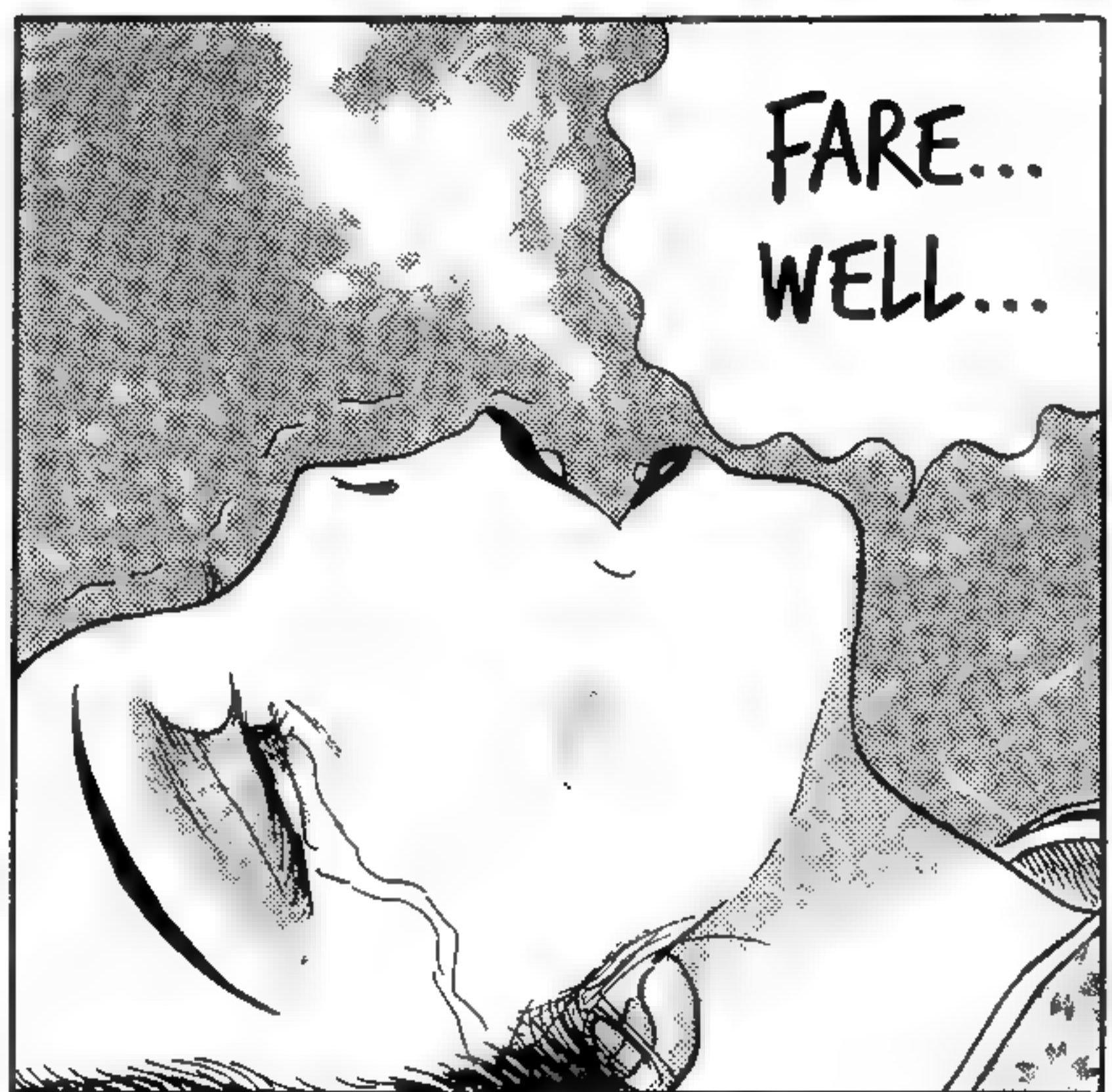
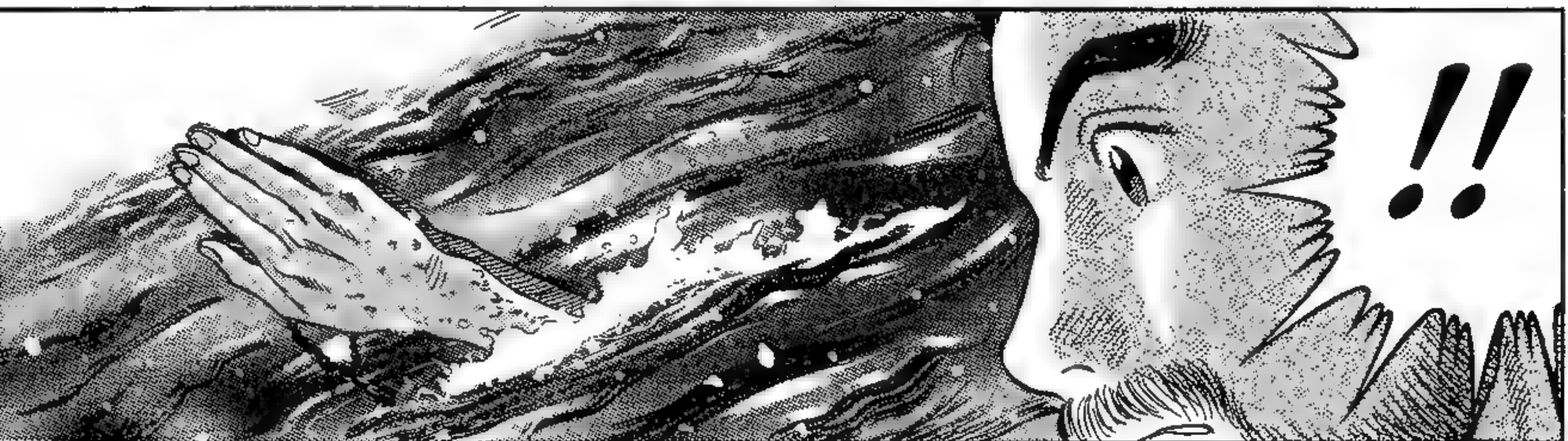
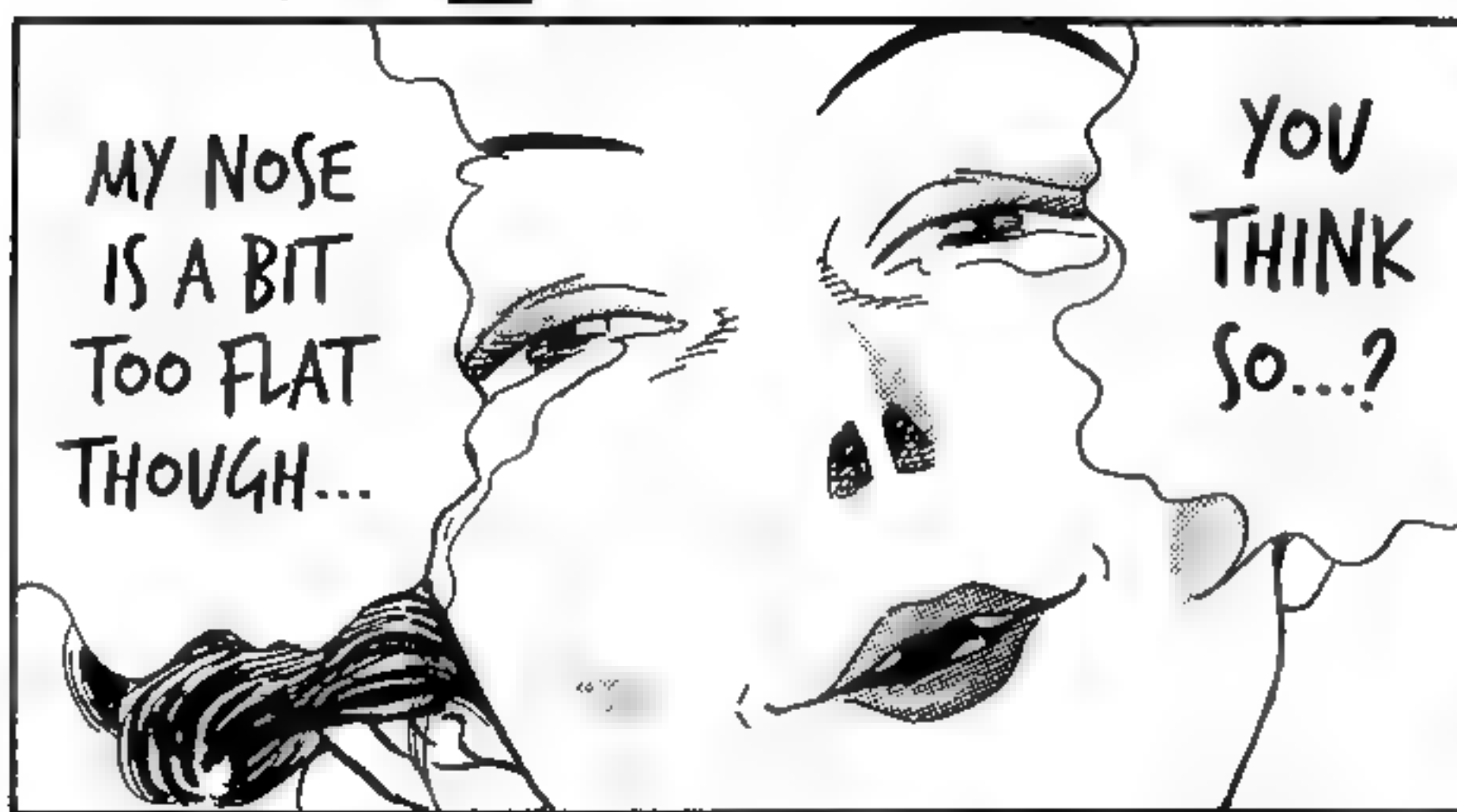














FOR  
ME AS A  
DOCTOR,  
IT WAS AN  
UNFOR-  
GETTABLE,  
BITTER  
DEFEAT.

YUGIRI, THE OI-  
RAN COURTESAN  
WHO WAS ONCE  
WIDELY KNOWN  
FOR BEING THE  
MOST BEAUTIFUL  
WOMAN IN EDO,  
PASSED AWAY AT  
THE AGE OF 24.

BUT I NO  
LONGER HAVE  
ANY INTENTION  
OF TURNING  
MY BACK ON  
THIS PATH.

THE ROAD TO  
MAKING PENICILIN  
THAT IS FURTHER  
REFINED AND MORE  
EFFECTIVE IS LONG.  
I DON'T KNOW WHEN  
WE'LL BE ABLE TO  
GET THERE.



# TRUTH CHAPTER

## PART 1: THE COURT PHYSICIAN

END OF  
MARCH,  
THIRD  
YEAR OF  
BUNKYU  
(1863)




EDO  
CASTLE





# TRUTH CHAPTER PART 1: THE COURT PHYSICIAN

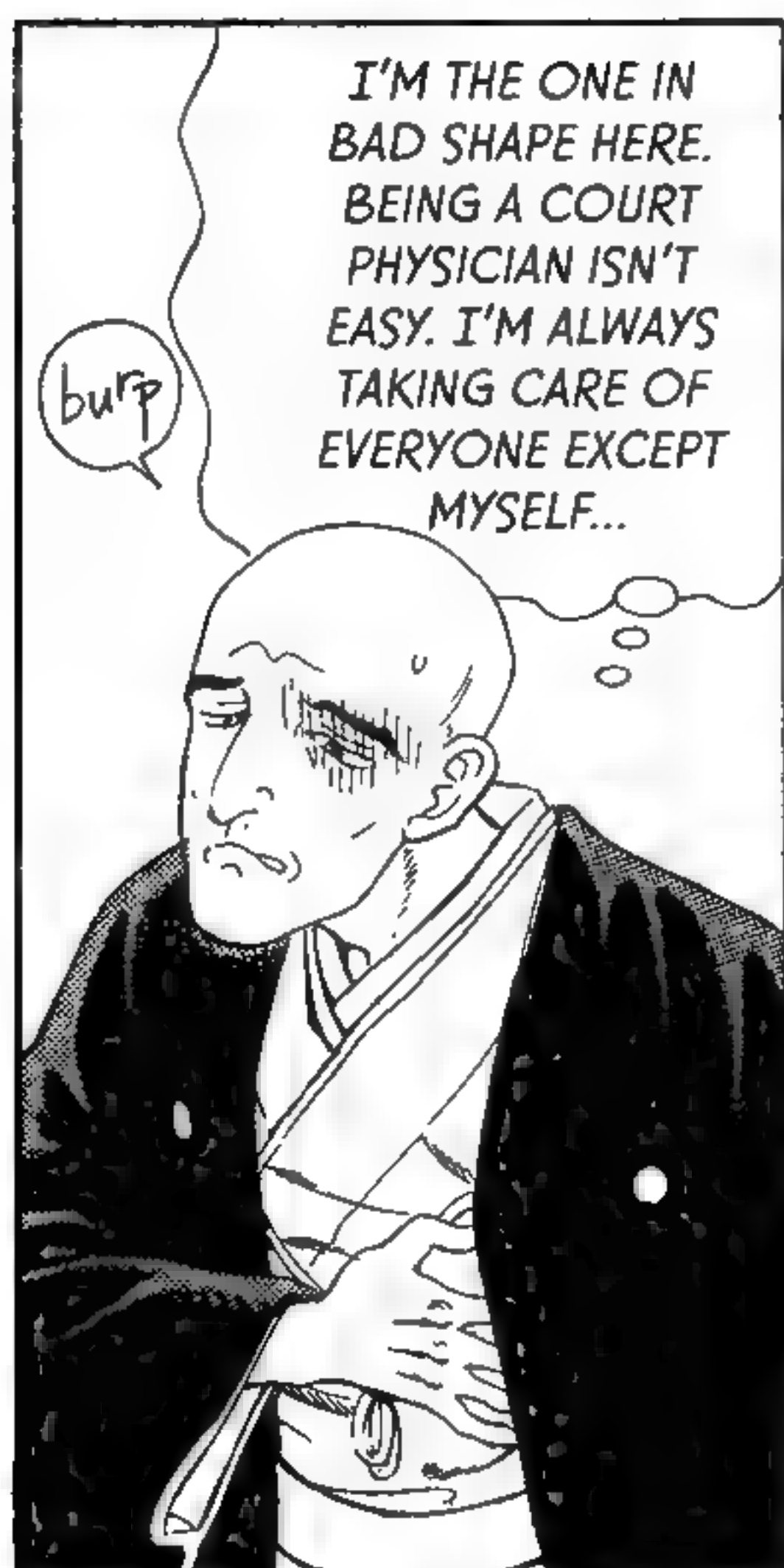
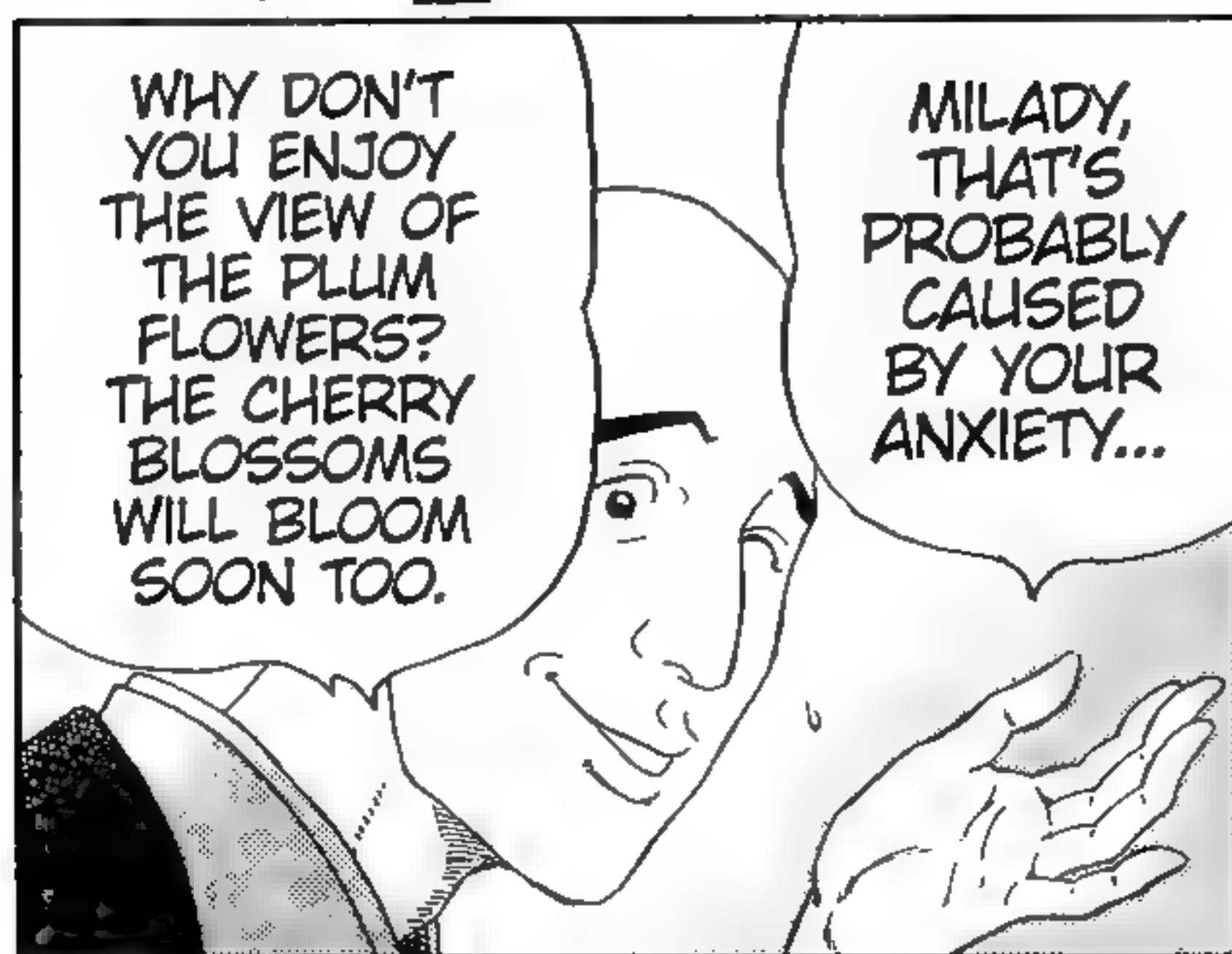


THE TALE  
STARTED SOME-  
WHERE I NEVER  
WOULD'VE EVER  
IMAGINED.







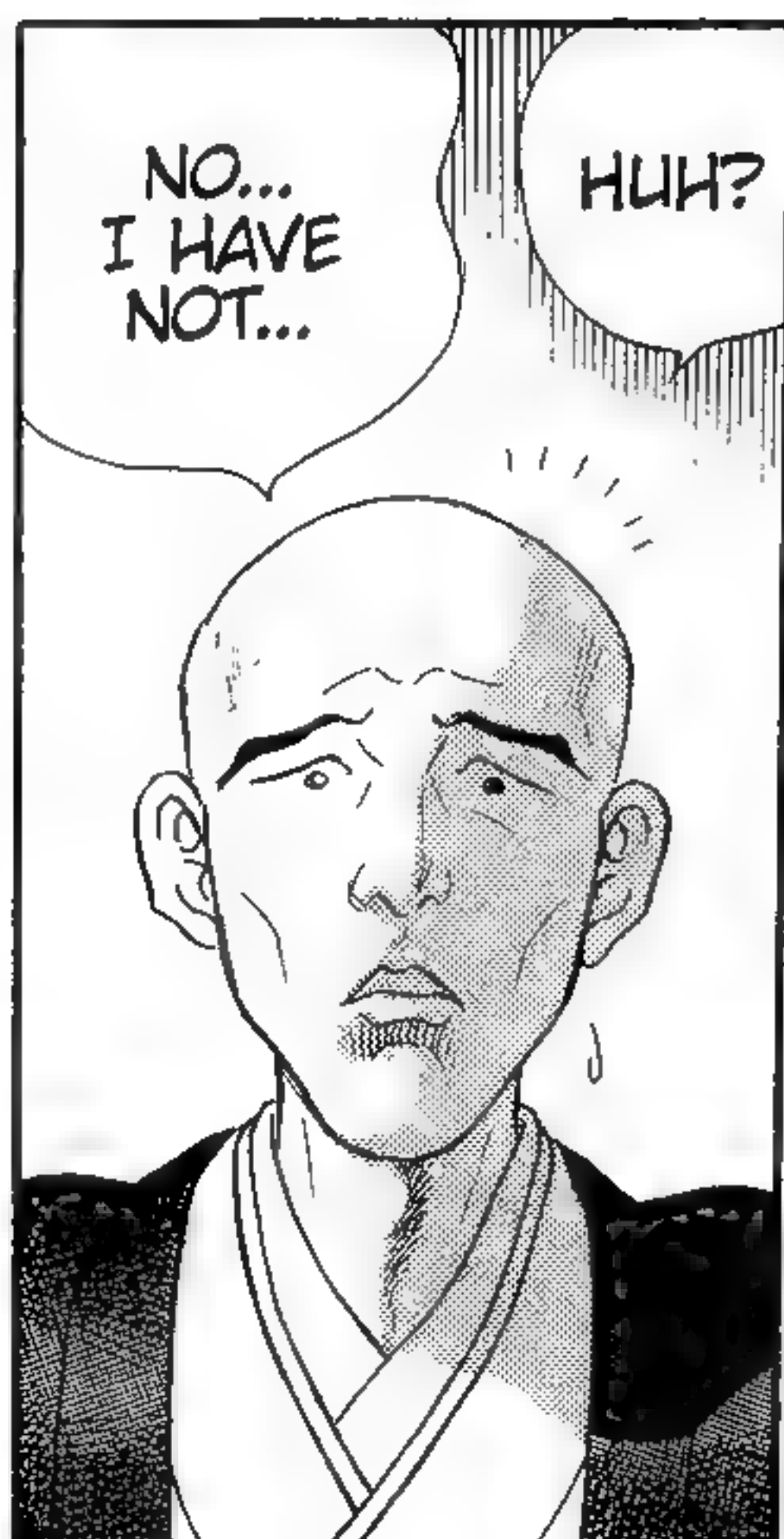






GENEN TAKI,  
COURT PHYSICIAN

THE TRUE PERSON  
IN CHARGE BEHIND  
THE CURTAINS AT THE  
SHOGUNAL MEDICAL  
ACADEMY OF  
STANDARD MEDICINE  
(CHINESE MEDICINE)

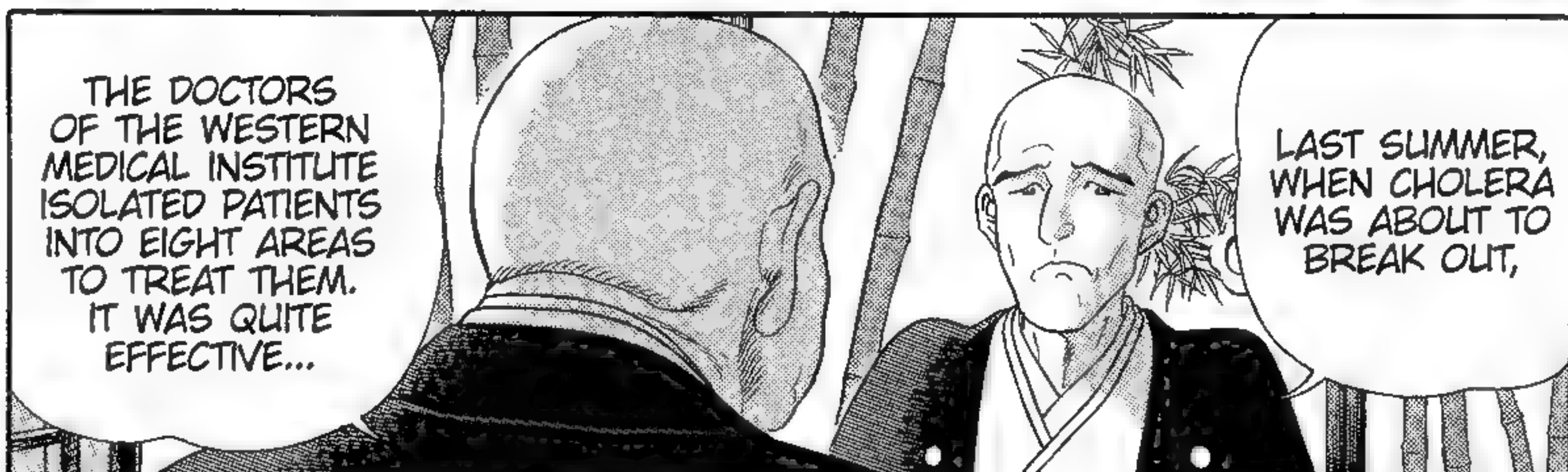


NO...  
I HAVE  
NOT...

HUH?



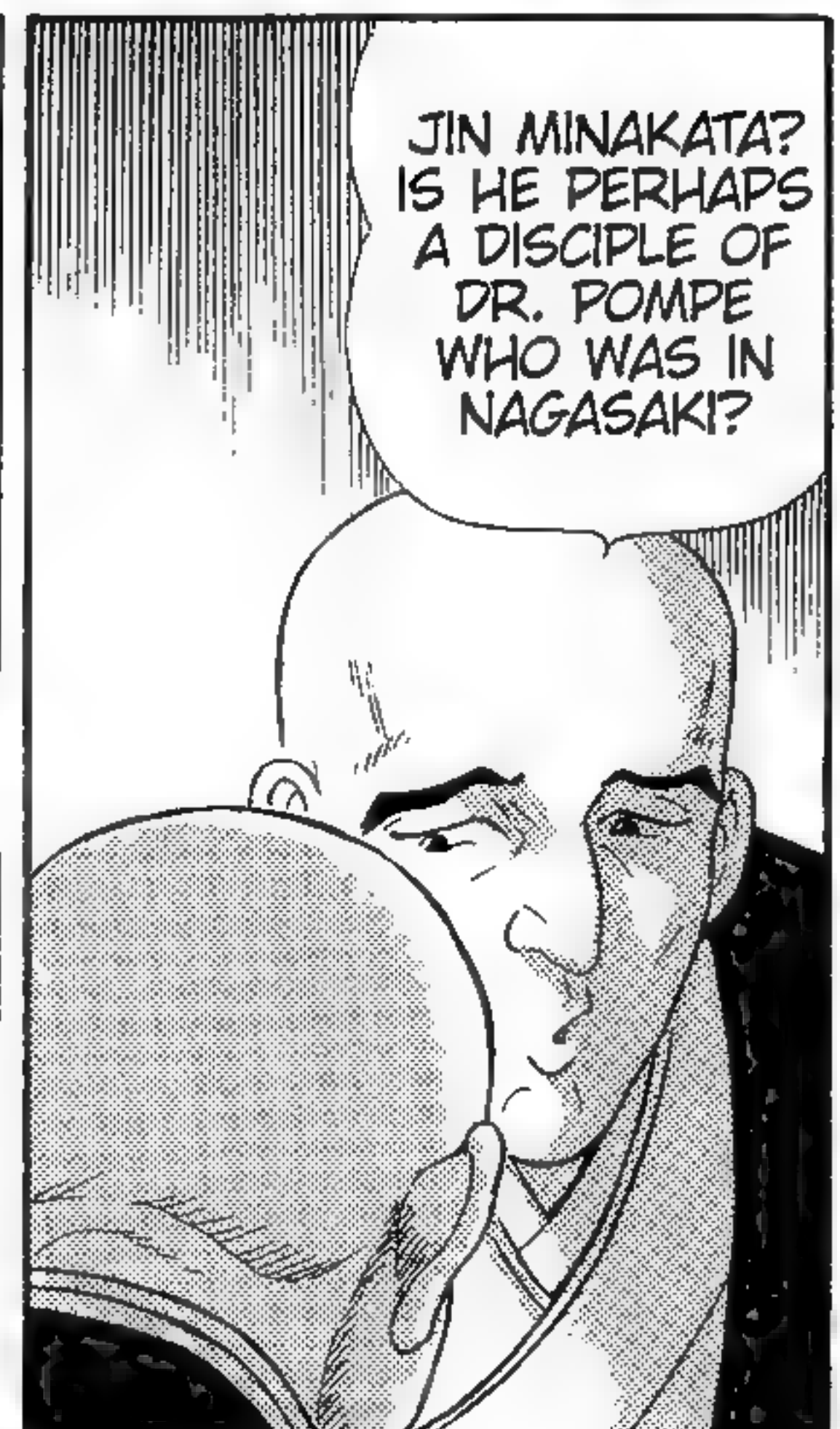
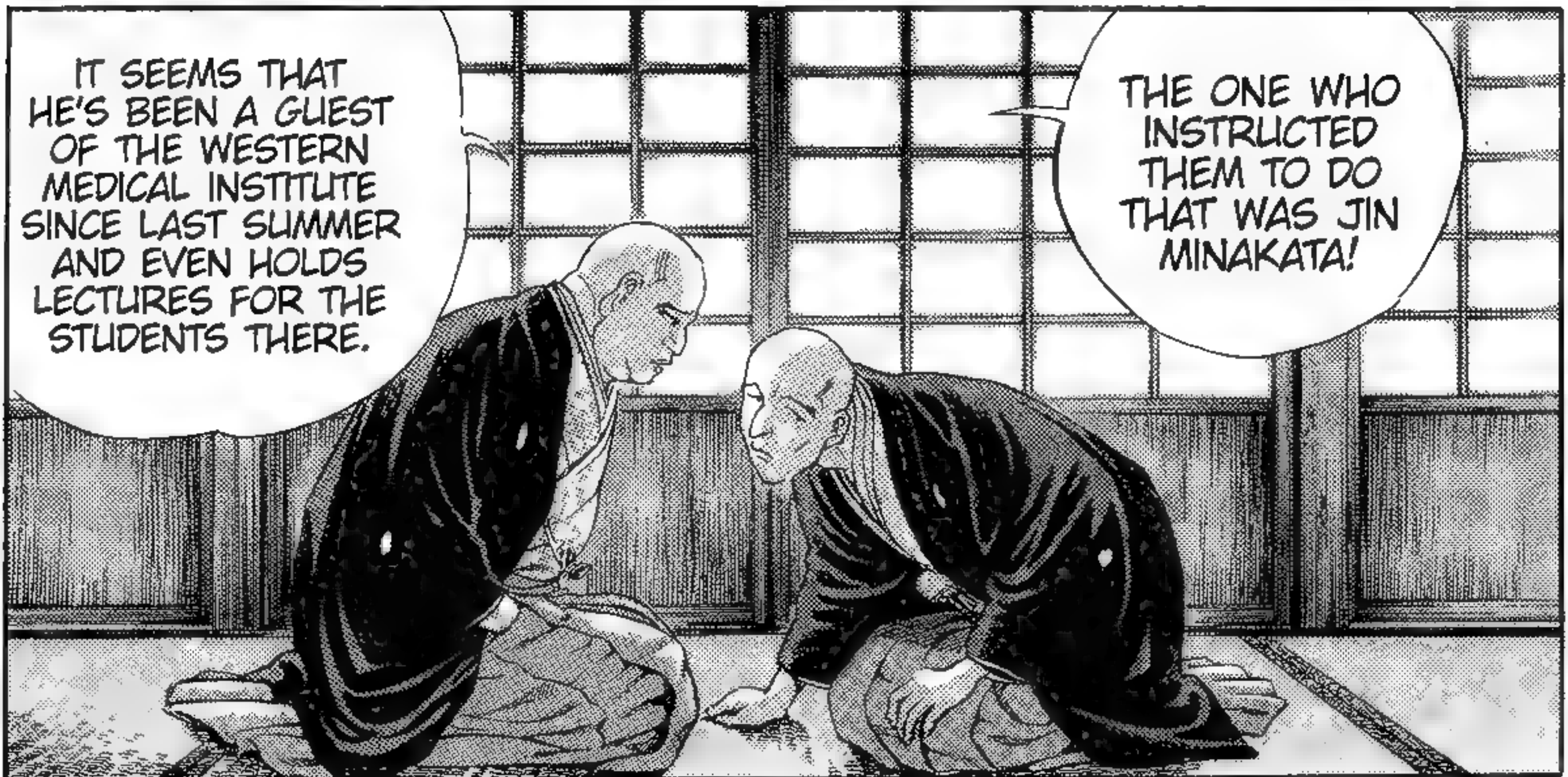
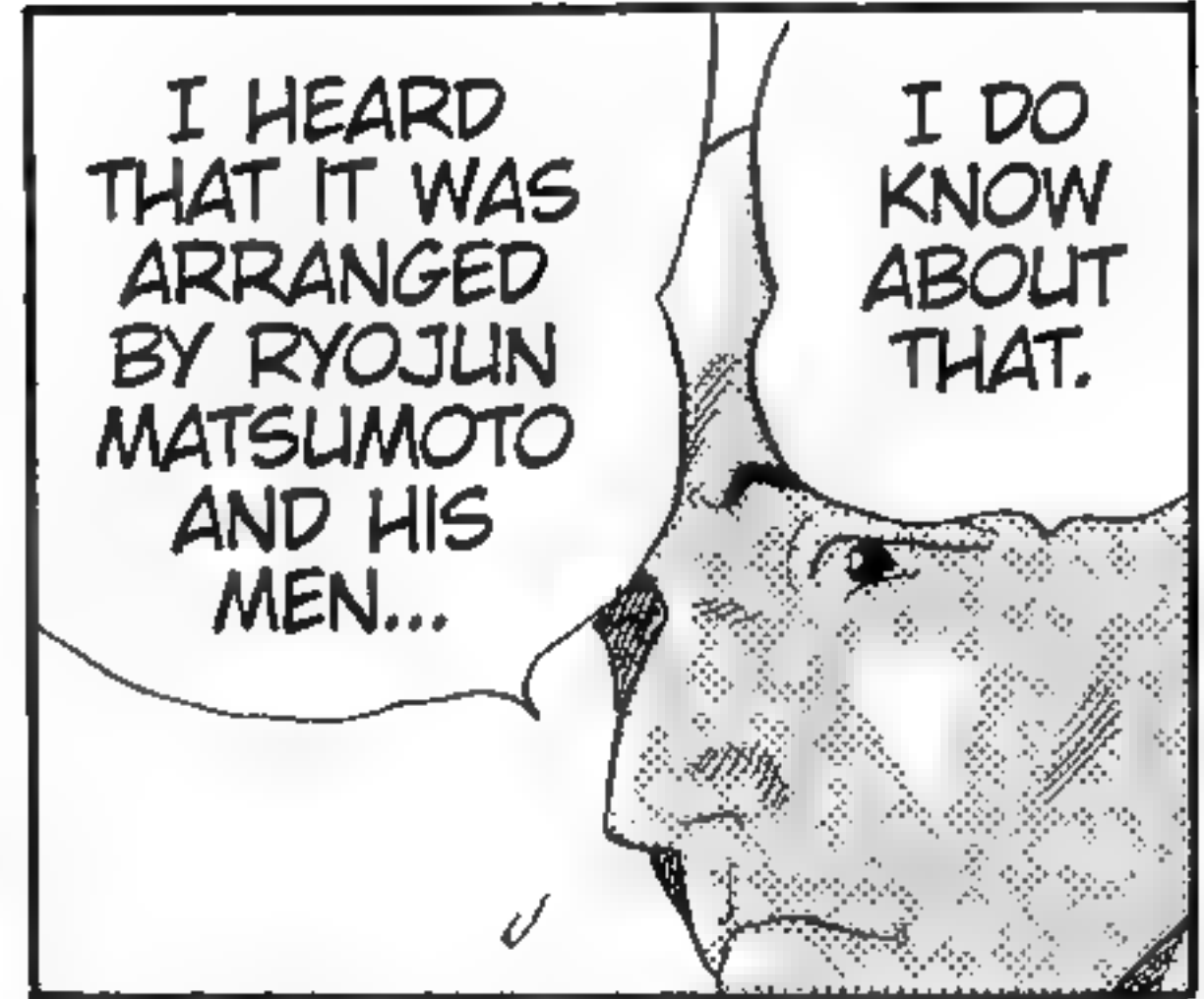
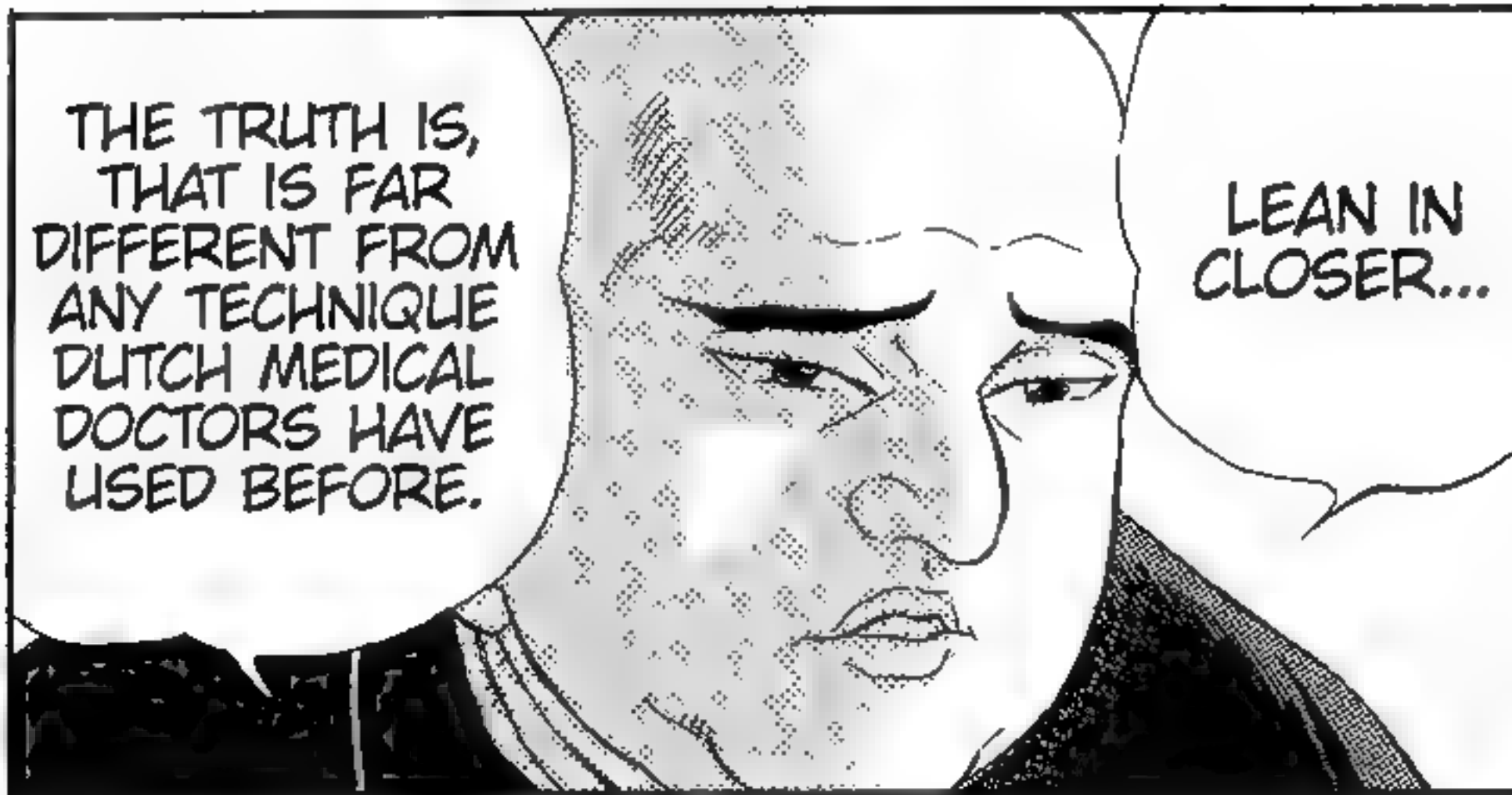
GENKO...  
HAVE YOU  
HEARD OF  
THE DUTCH  
MEDICAL  
PHYSICIAN  
NAMED JIN  
MINAKATA?



THE DOCTORS  
OF THE WESTERN  
MEDICAL INSTITUTE  
ISOLATED PATIENTS  
INTO EIGHT AREAS  
TO TREAT THEM.  
IT WAS QUITE  
EFFECTIVE...

LAST SUMMER,  
WHEN CHOLERA  
WAS ABOUT TO  
BREAK OUT,



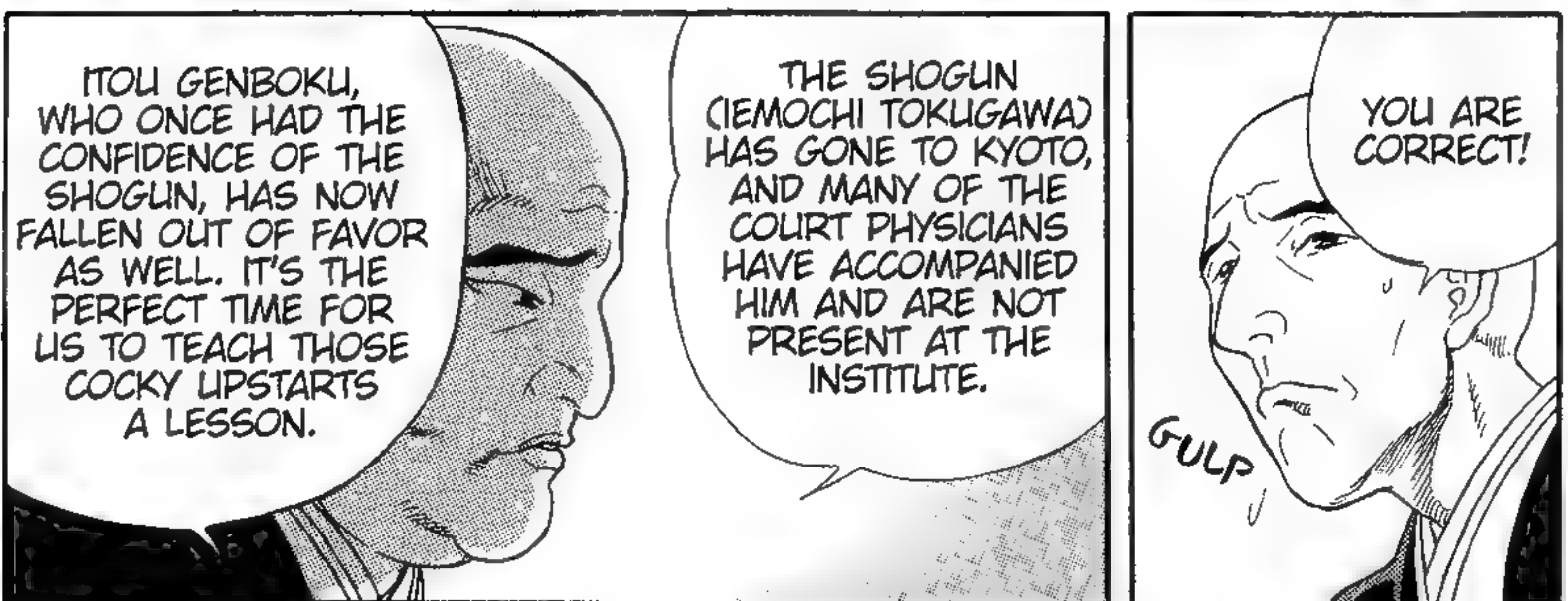






THE OTHER DAY,  
THE WESTERN MEDICAL  
INSTITUTE RECEIVED AN  
ENDORSEMENT FROM THE  
SHOGUNATE AND WAS  
RENAMED TO SIMPLY  
"THE MEDICAL INSTITUTE."  
WE CAN'T ALLOW SOME-  
ONE LIKE THAT TO DO  
WHATEVER HE LIKES AT  
A NOW-PRESTIGIOUS  
ORGANIZATION.

SOMEONE  
INCREDIBLY  
SUSPICIOUS!



ITOU GENBOKU,  
WHO ONCE HAD THE  
CONFIDENCE OF THE  
SHOGUN, HAS NOW  
FALLEN OUT OF FAVOR  
AS WELL. IT'S THE  
PERFECT TIME FOR  
US TO TEACH THOSE  
COCKY UPSTARTS  
A LESSON.

THE SHOGUN  
(IEMOCHI TOKUGAWA)  
HAS GONE TO KYOTO,  
AND MANY OF THE  
COURT PHYSICIANS  
HAVE ACCOMPANIED  
HIM AND ARE NOT  
PRESENT AT THE  
INSTITUTE.

YOU ARE  
CORRECT!

GULP

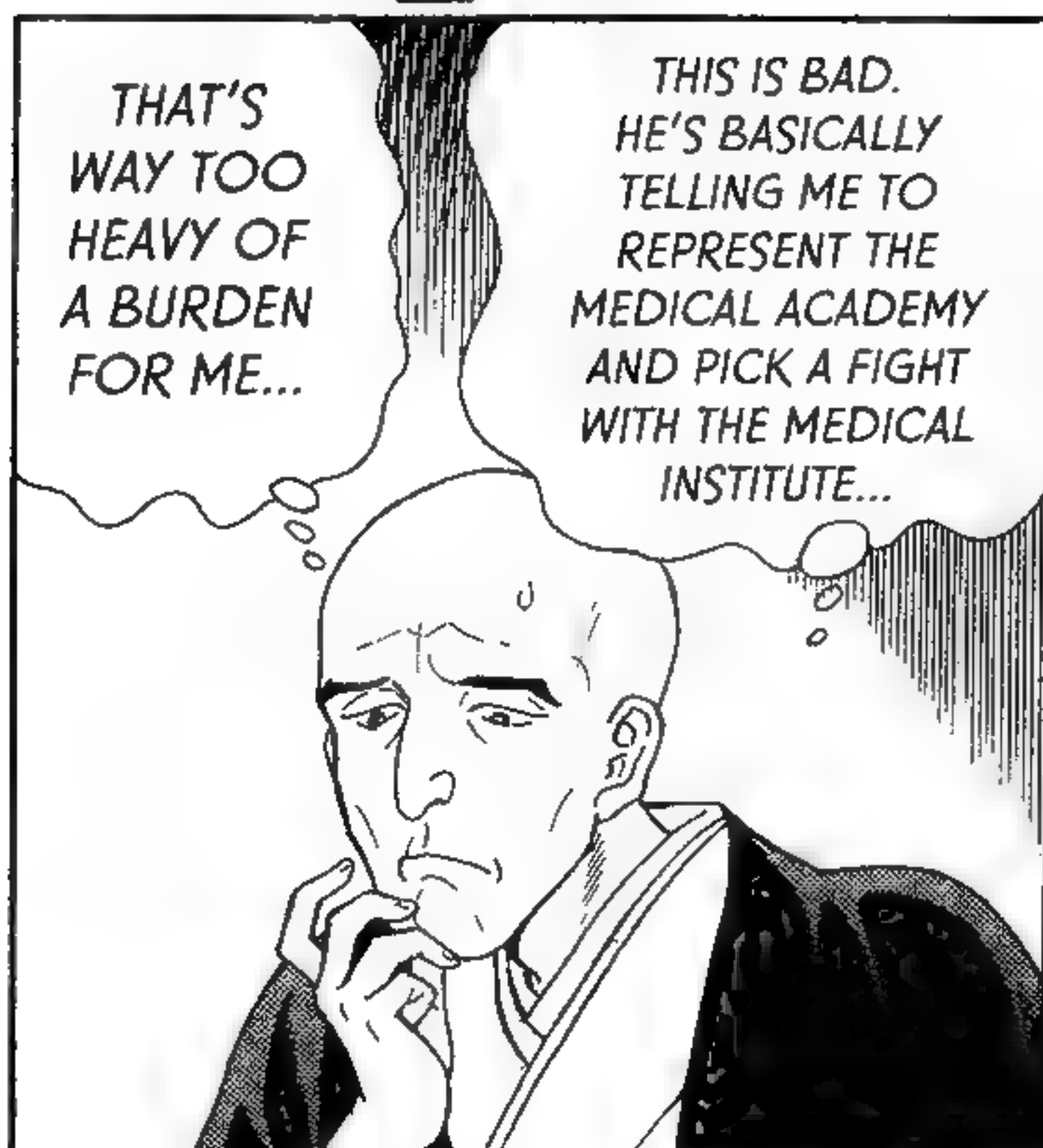


Y...  
YES!

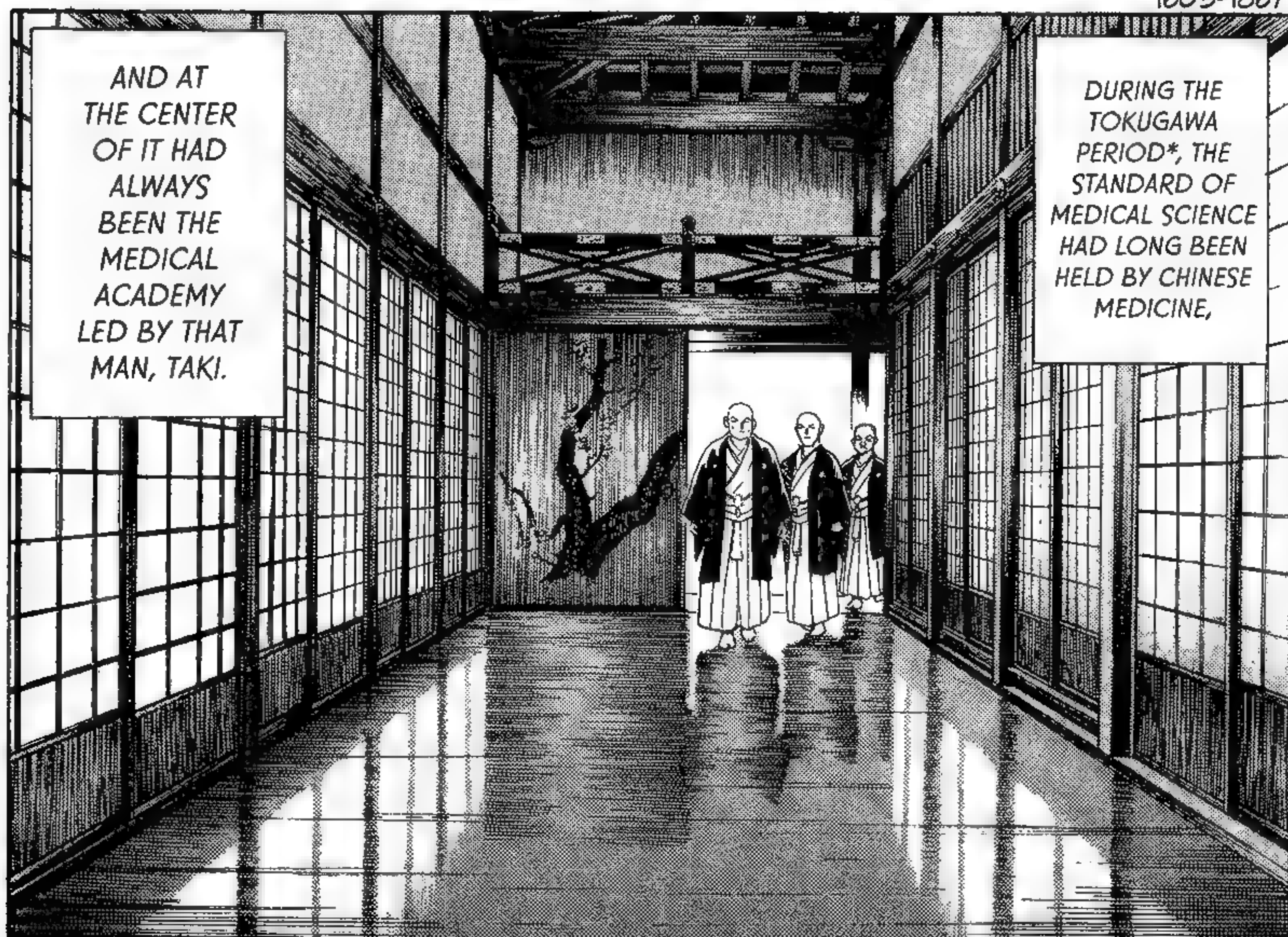
UNMASK  
THIS MAN  
NAMED  
MINAKATA!

GENKO  
FUKUDA,  
I LEAVE  
THIS TASK  
TO YOU.

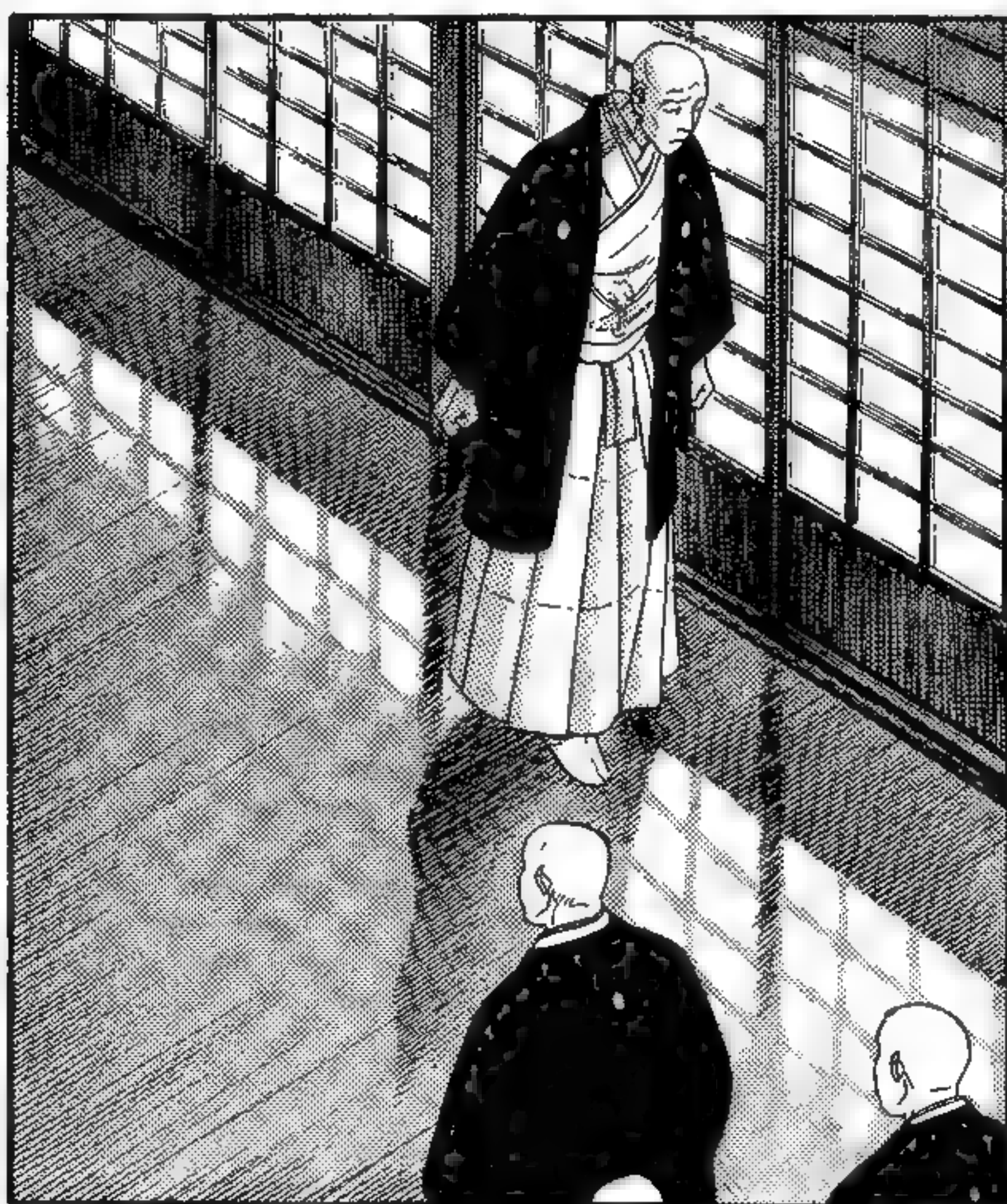
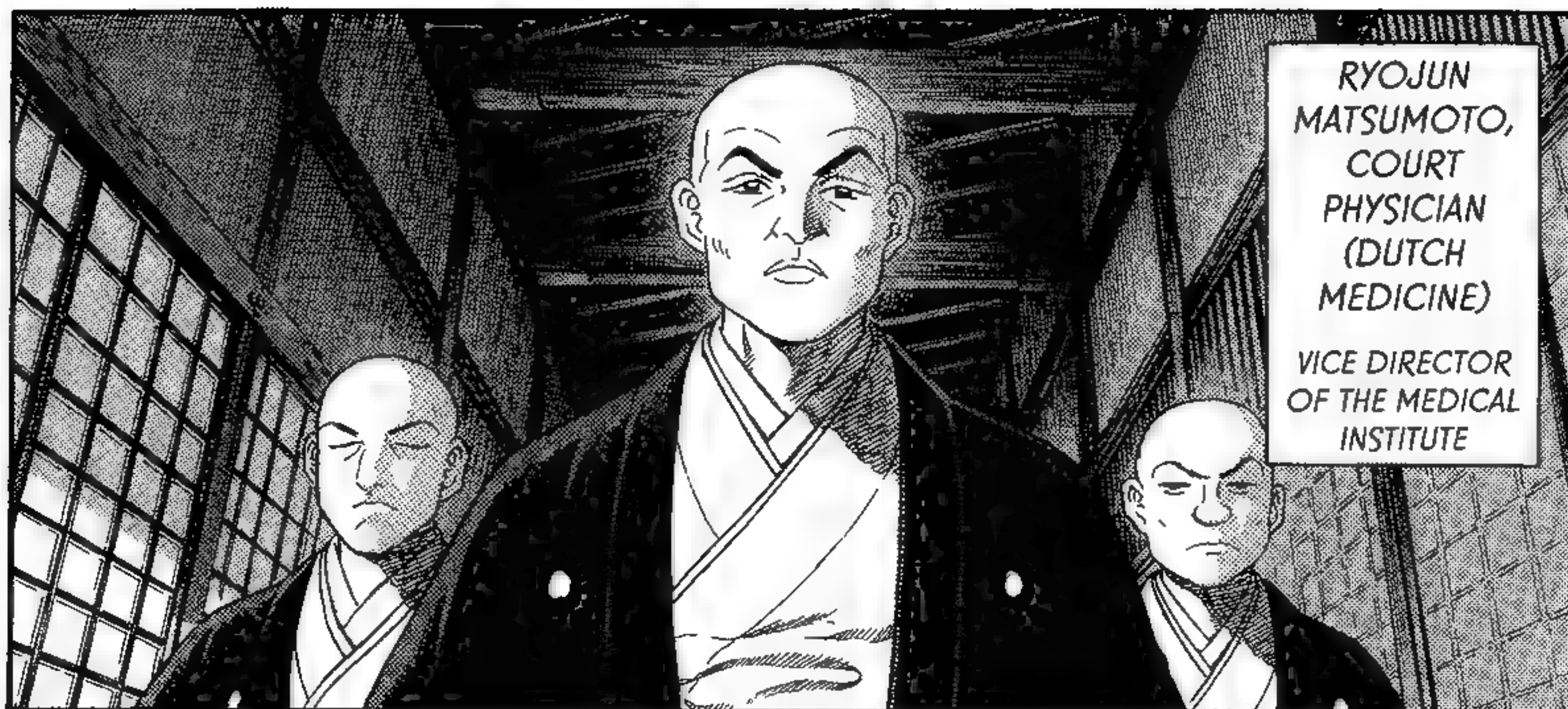




\*1603-1867











BUT IRONICALLY, THAT WAS THE SAME YEAR IN JAPAN THAT THE COWPOX VACCINATION METHOD\* PROVED EFFECTIVE, AND THE TIDES TURNED IN FAVOR OF DUTCH MEDICINE.

TAKI'S INFLUENCE WAS SO STRONG THAT IN THE SECOND YEAR OF KAEI (1849,) A LAW CONTROLLING THE TRANSLATION OF DUTCH BOOKS WAS ESTABLISHED, AND ALL MEDICAL BOOKS NEEDED THE APPROVAL OF THE MEDICAL ACADEMY TO BE PUBLISHED.

\*USING SMALLPOXS THAT COWS GET AS A WAY TO VACCINATE SMALLPOX IN HUMANS.



AS A RESULT, THE BAN ON DUTCH MEDICINE WAS LIFTED, AND DOCTORS OF DUTCH MEDICINE WERE APPOINTED AS COURT PHYSICIANS AND GIVEN MORE IMPORTANT ROLES.

MOREOVER, IN THE FIFTH YEAR OF ANSEI (1855,) THE STANDARD MEDICINE (CHINESE MEDICINE) HAD FAILED TO CURE A SERIOUS ILLNESS THAT THE SHOGUN, IESADA TOKUGAWA, HAD, BUT THE DUTCH MEDICINE OF GENBOKU ITO AND OTHERS SUCCEEDED.

What'd ya just say?



IT MIGHT SPELL THE END OF STANDARD TRADITIONAL MEDICINE...

BUT... IF I JUST LET THEM DO AS THEY PLEASE...



WOULD  
ALL OF IT BE  
THROWN AWAY  
AS WORTHLESS,  
OUTDATED  
RELICS?!

WOULD ALL  
THE KNOWLEDGE...  
AND ACHIEVEMENTS...  
WE'VE BUILT UP WITH  
TREMENDOUS EFFORT  
OVER COUNTLESS  
GENERATIONS...



AND FINALLY...  
I'VE CLIMBED ALL  
THE WAY UP TO  
THIS POSITION OF  
SHOGUNAL COURT  
PHYSICIAN!!

I, GENKO FUKUDA,  
HAVE BEEN STUDYING  
DAY AND NIGHT FOR  
OVER TEN YEARS EVER  
SINCE I DECIDED TO  
PURSUE MEDICINE...









WELL, WOULD  
YA LOOK AT THAT.  
SURE IS SPRING  
IN FULL BLOOM.







\*LORD YODO YAMANOUCHI HAD RETIRED IN NAME ONLY AND STILL HELD TRUE POWER IN THE TOSA DOMAIN.



KATSU-SENSEI  
DID ME A FAVOR  
AND NEGOTIATED  
DIRECTLY WITH THE  
LORD OF THE  
DOMAIN, YODO  
YAMANOUCHI\*,  
FOR ME.

WELL, ON THE  
25TH OF LAST  
MONTH, I WAS  
FINALLY GIV'N A  
'FFICIAL PARDON  
FOR RUNNIN'  
AWAY FROM MY  
TOSA DOMAIN!





HOW ABOUT  
WE RAISE  
A TOAST  
TO YOUR  
FREEDOM  
TONIGHT?

I'M  
REALLY  
GLAD TO  
HEAR  
THAT.



NOW I CAN  
REALLY PUT ALL  
I'VE GOT INTO  
THE SERVICE OF  
THE NATION AND  
TRAIN MYSELF  
FOR THE NAVY.  
IT'S SOMETHIN'  
I'VE ALWAYS  
WANTED TO DO.



WHY DON'T  
WE GO TO  
YOSHIWARA  
THEN?!

'COURSE,  
MINAKATA-  
SENSEI!



BUT THERE  
BE NO ONE  
AS FINE AS  
NOKAZE OF  
YOSHIWARA  
AFTER ALL.

THE GALS  
IN KYOTO  
SURE WERE  
PRETTY,

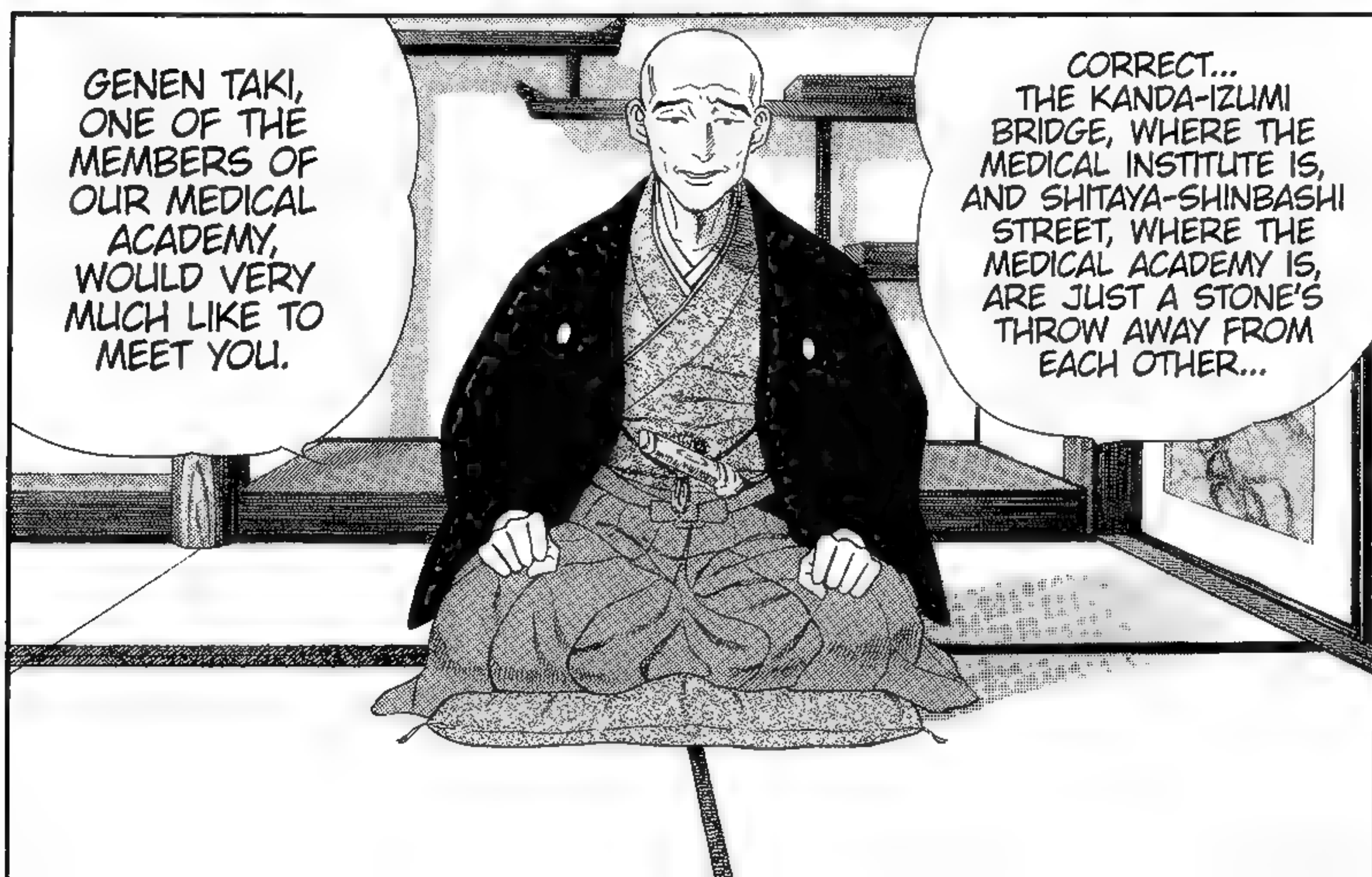




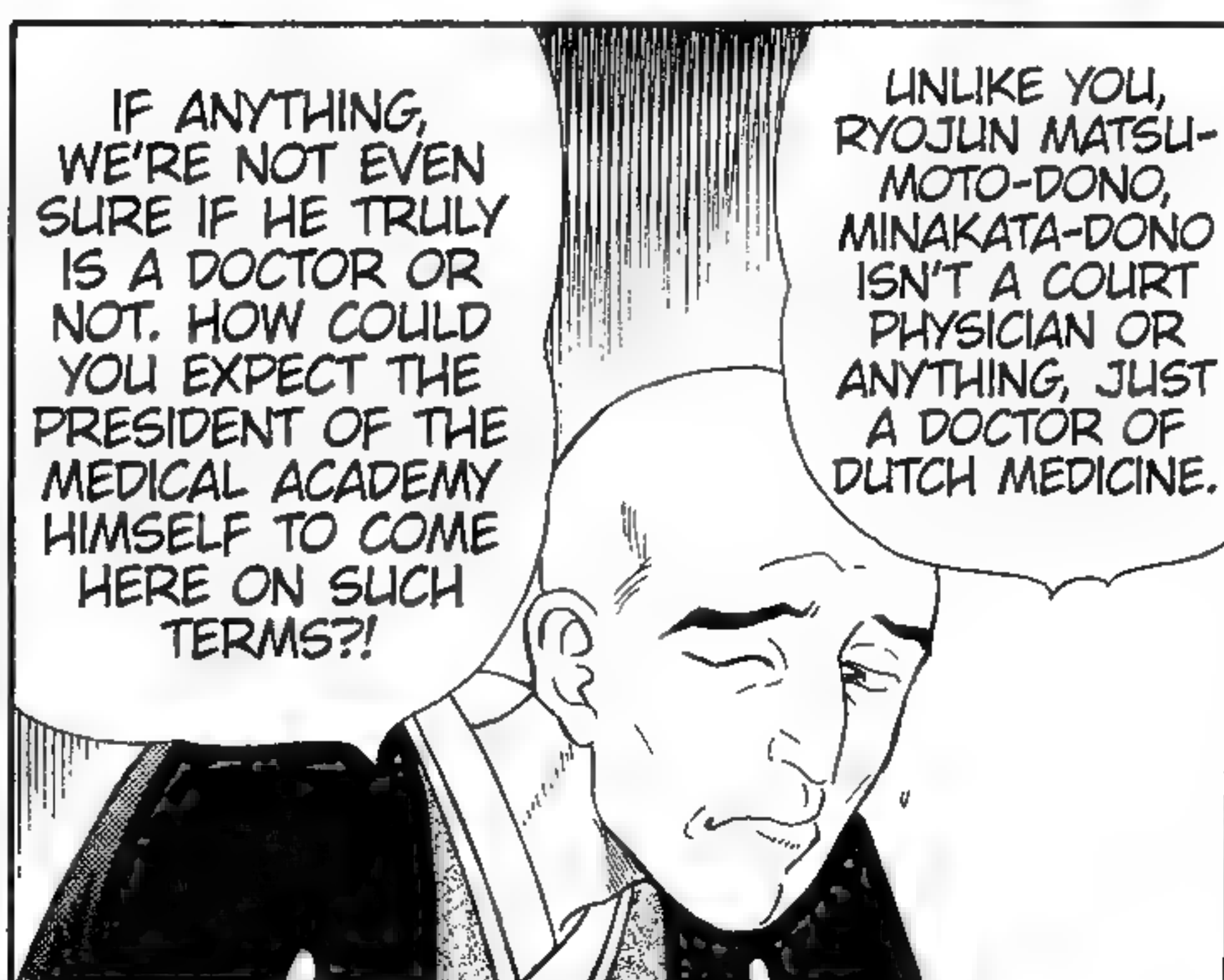




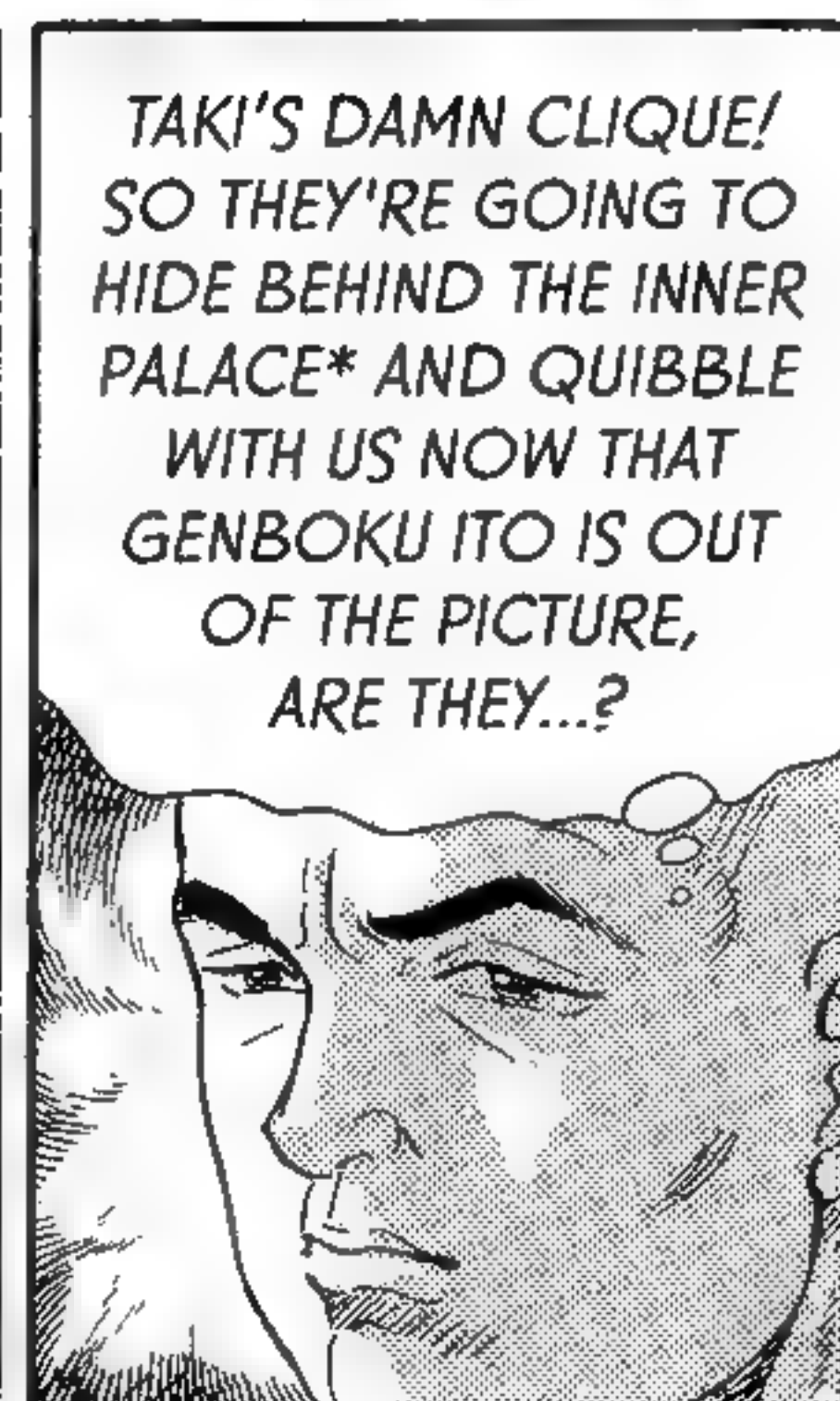




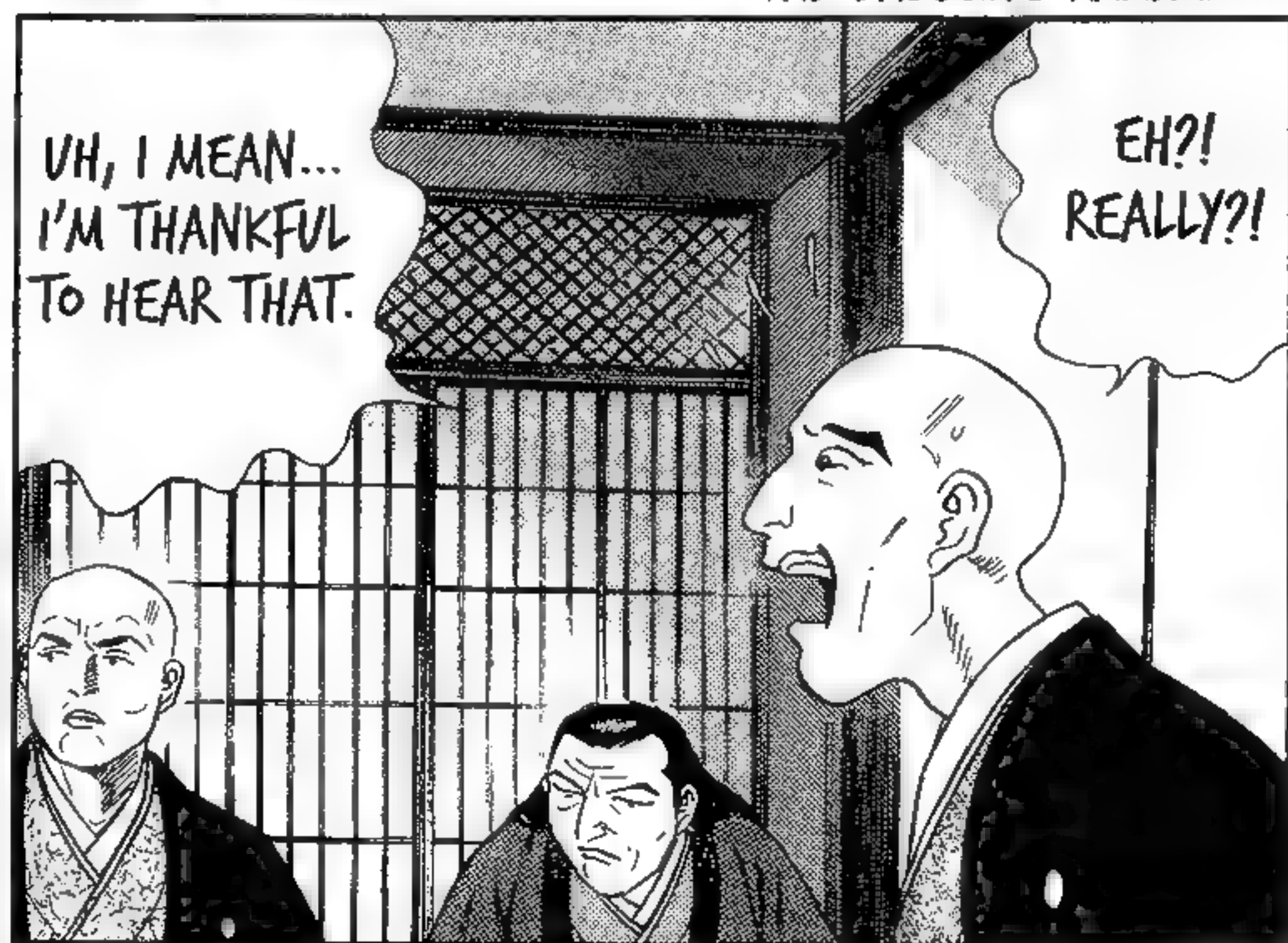




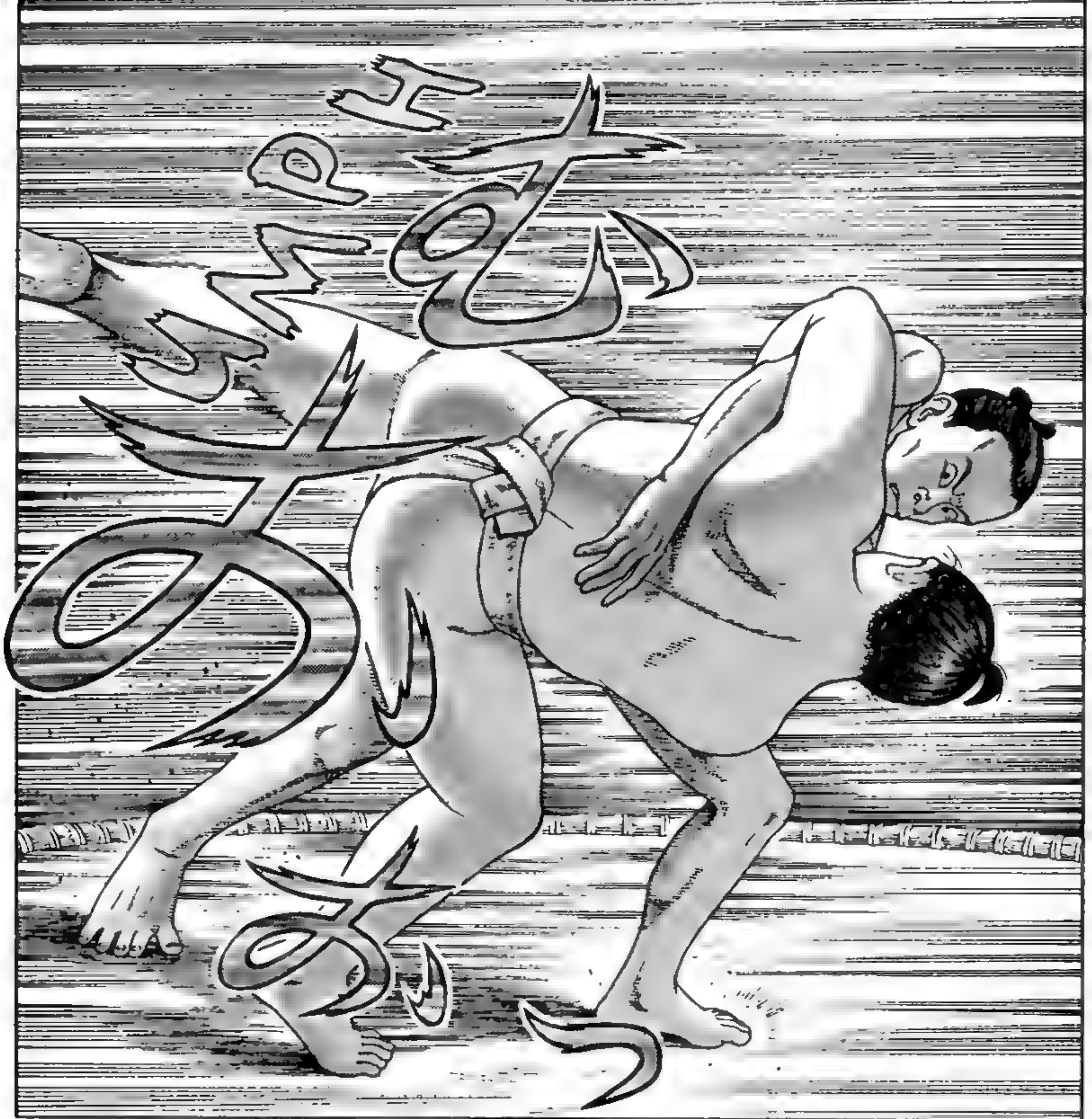




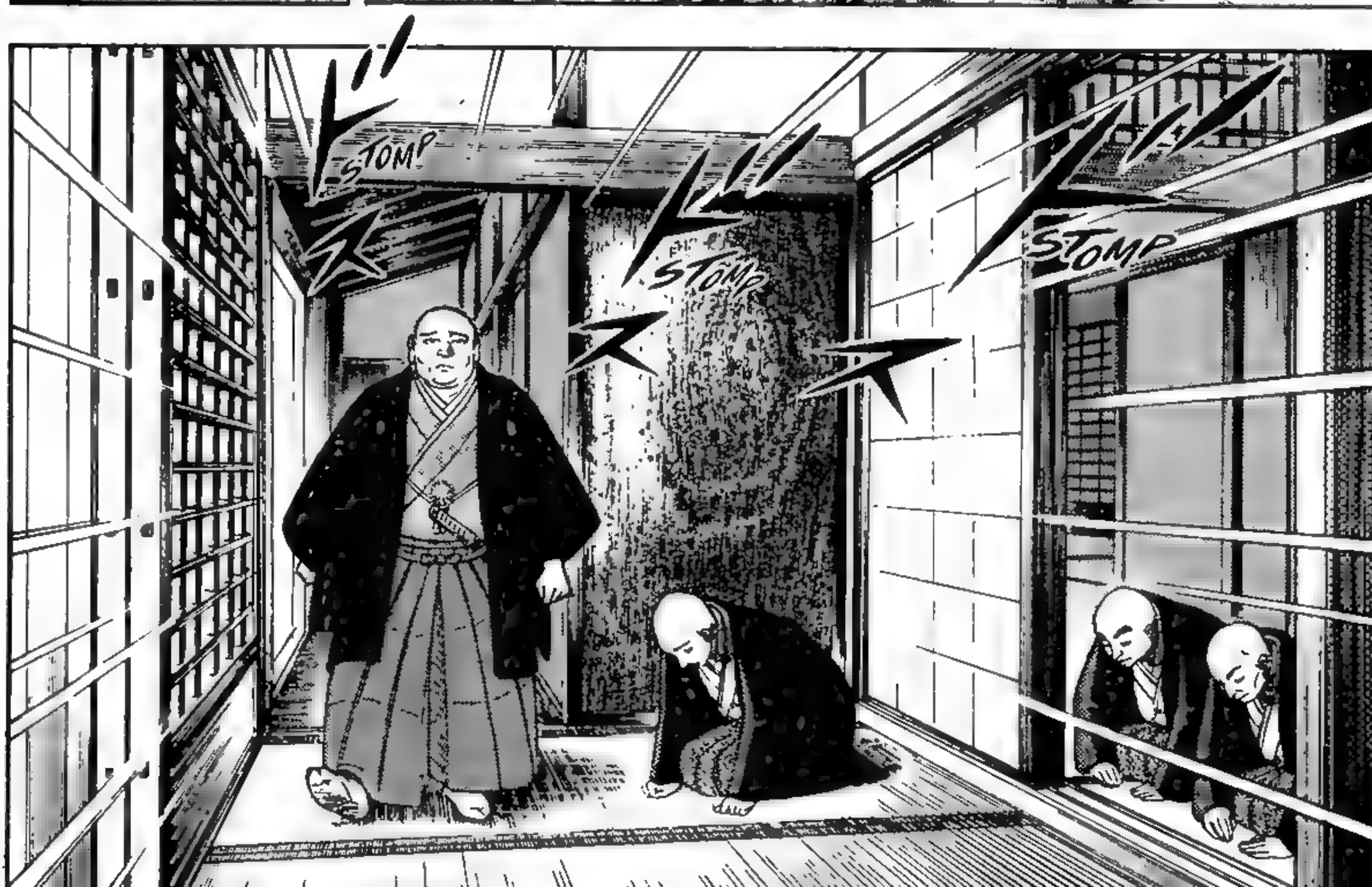
\*THE SHOGUN'S HAREM.



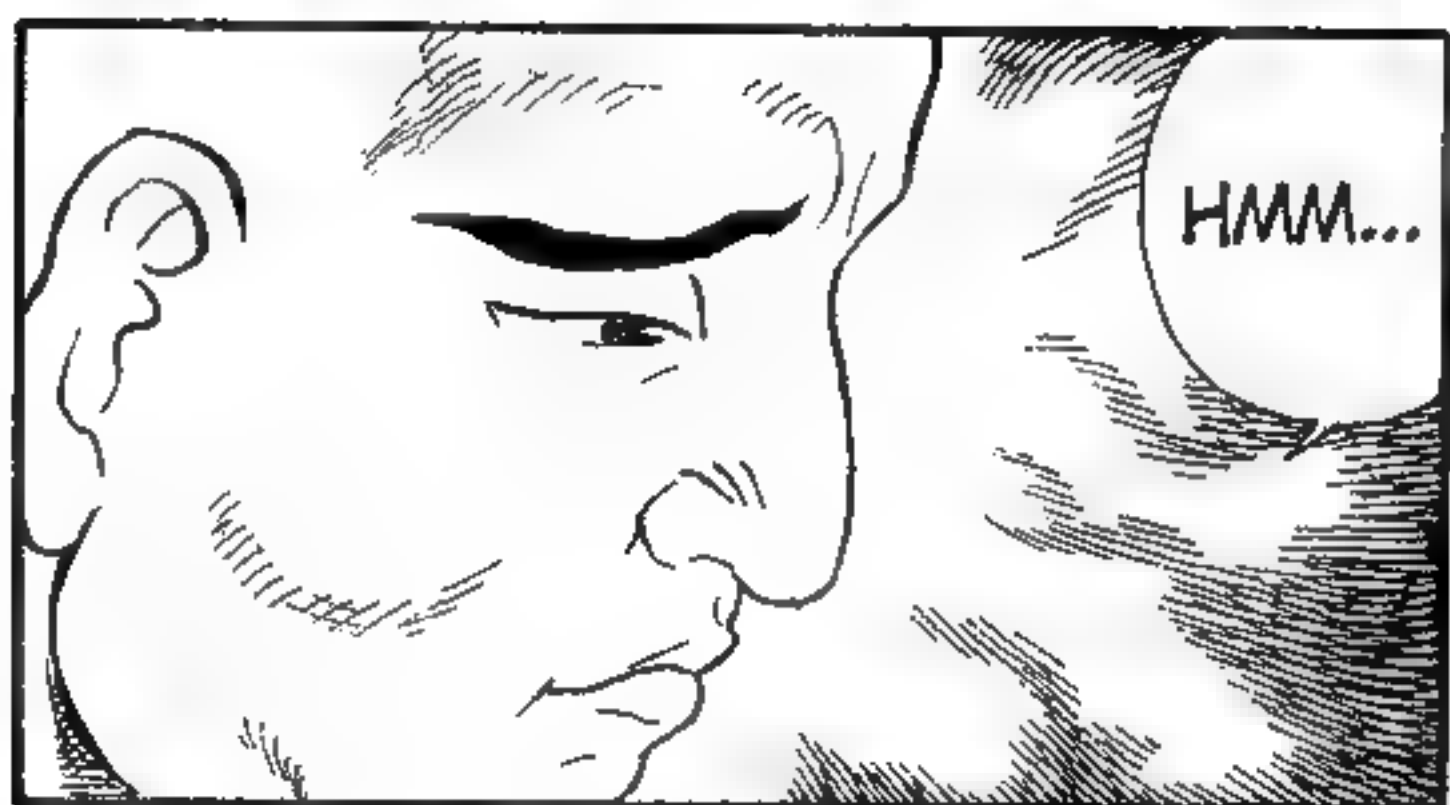
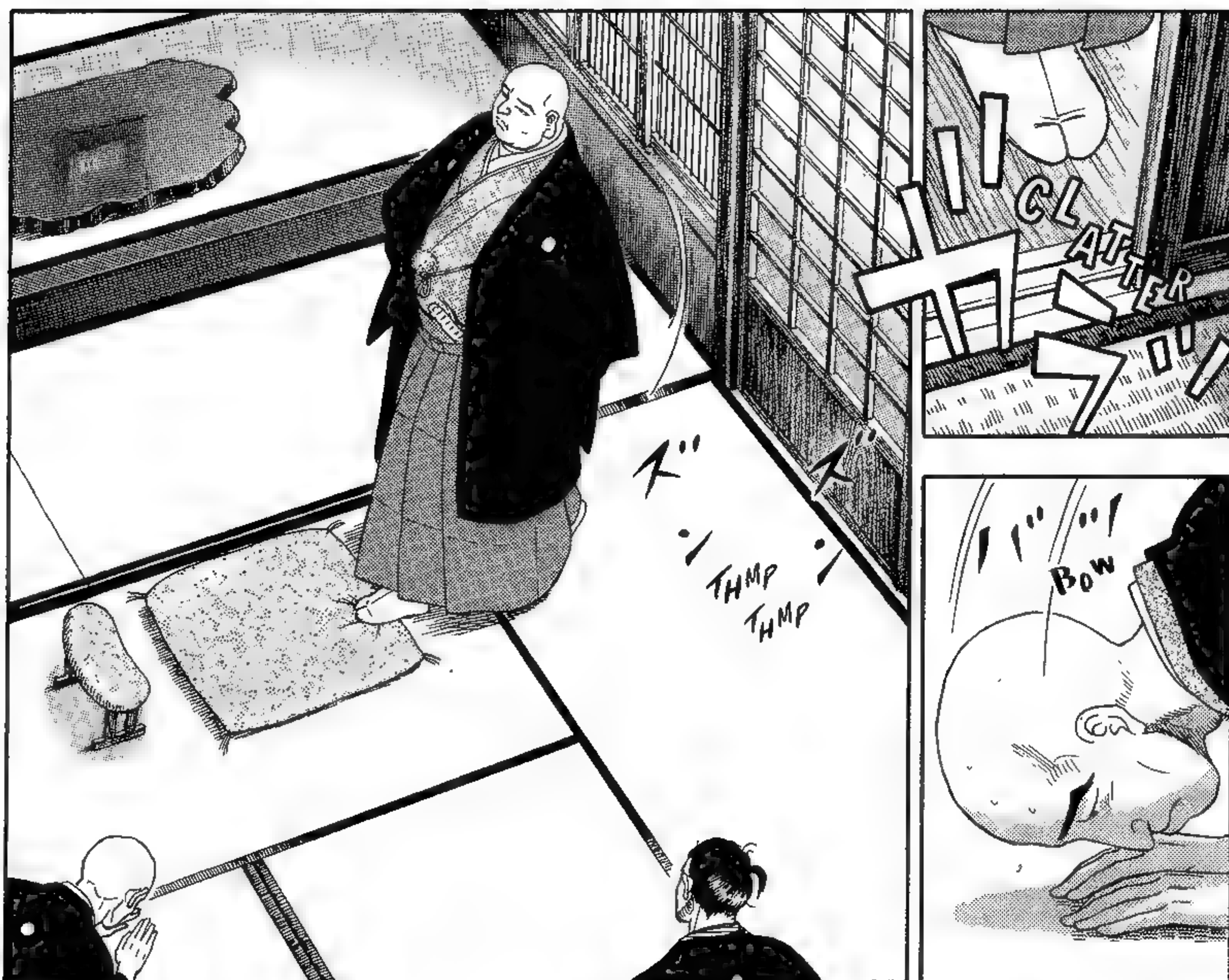




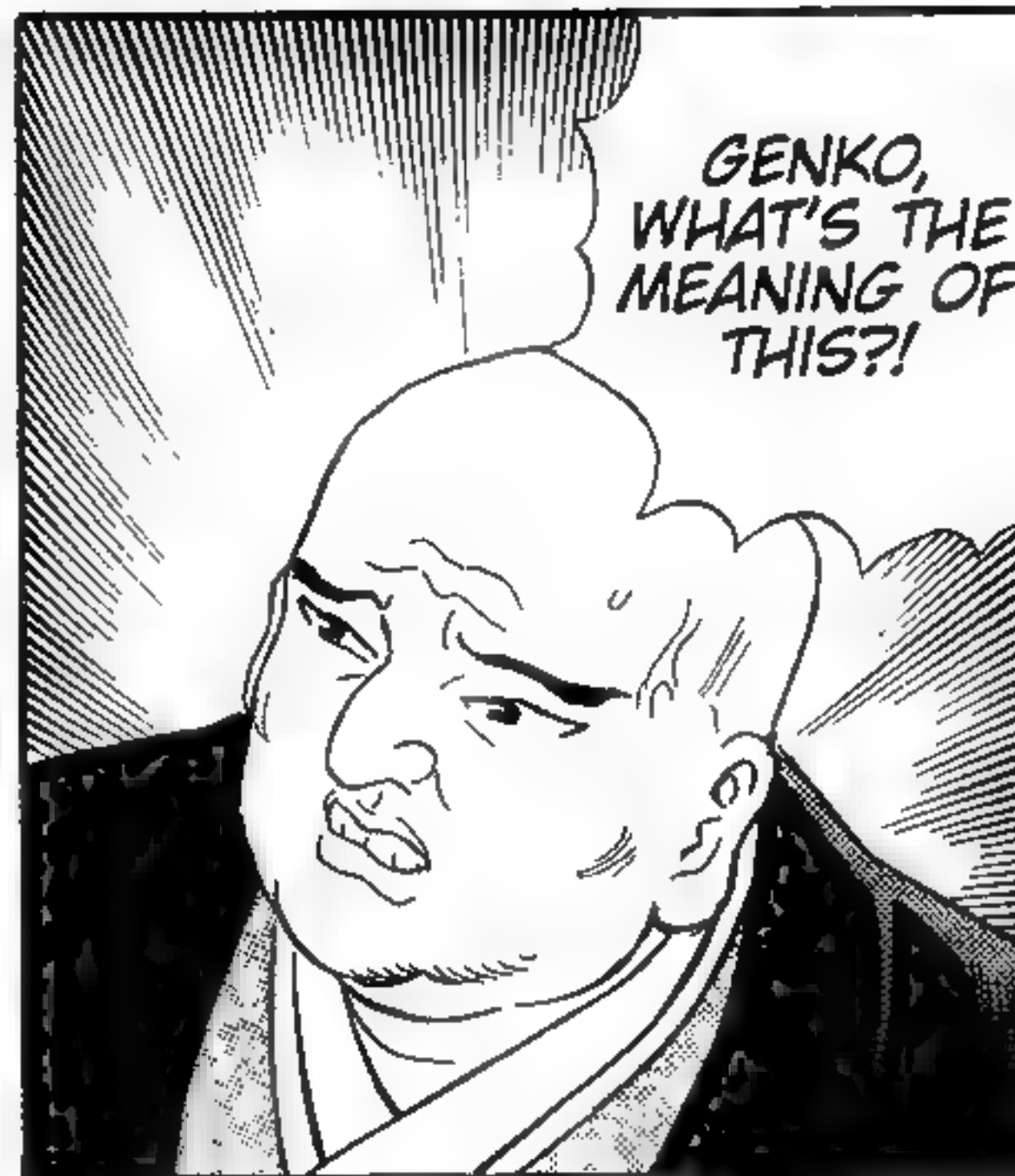
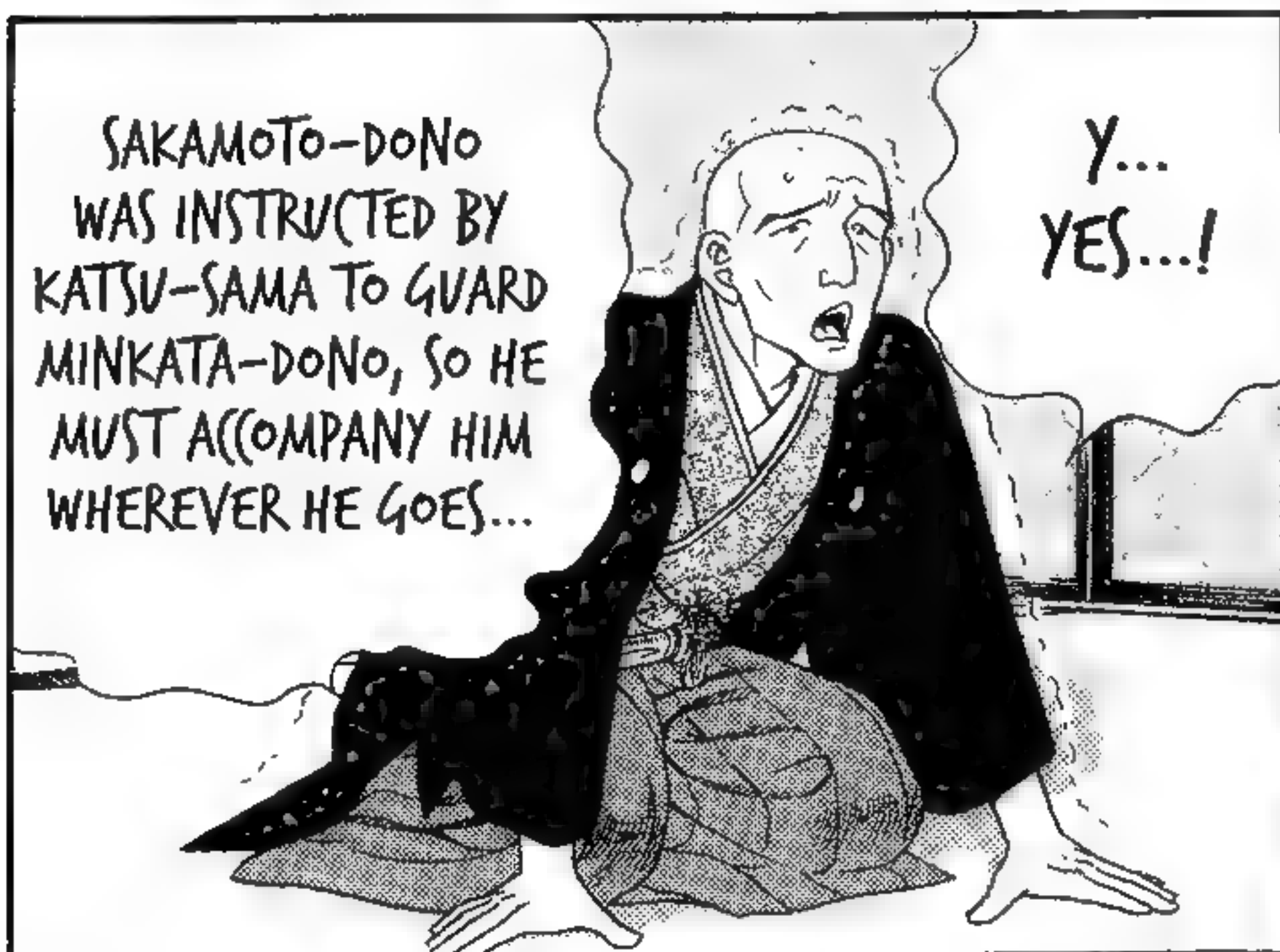


















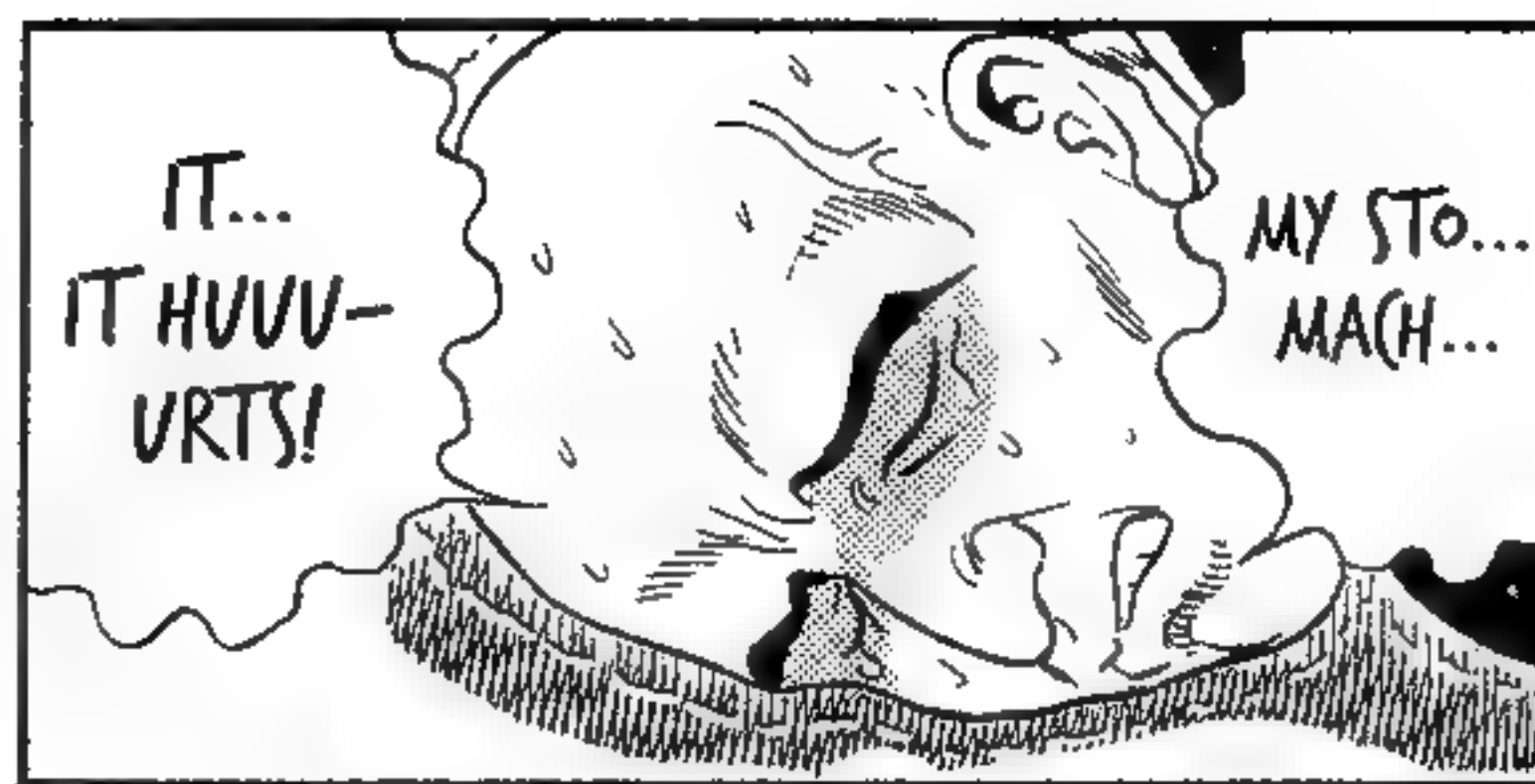






PLEASE  
LET ME  
TAKE A  
LOOK...

WAIT, THIS  
DOESN'T  
SEEM THAT  
SIMPLE...



IT...  
IT HUUU-  
URTS!

MY STO...  
MACH...



DON'T  
MAKE A  
SCENE  
OVER A  
SIMPLE  
BELLY-  
ACHE!

GET  
OUT OF  
HERE,  
YOU  
IDIOT!



HIS MUSCULAR  
DEFENCE IS  
SO STRONG...  
HE MAY HAVE  
PERITONITIS\*...

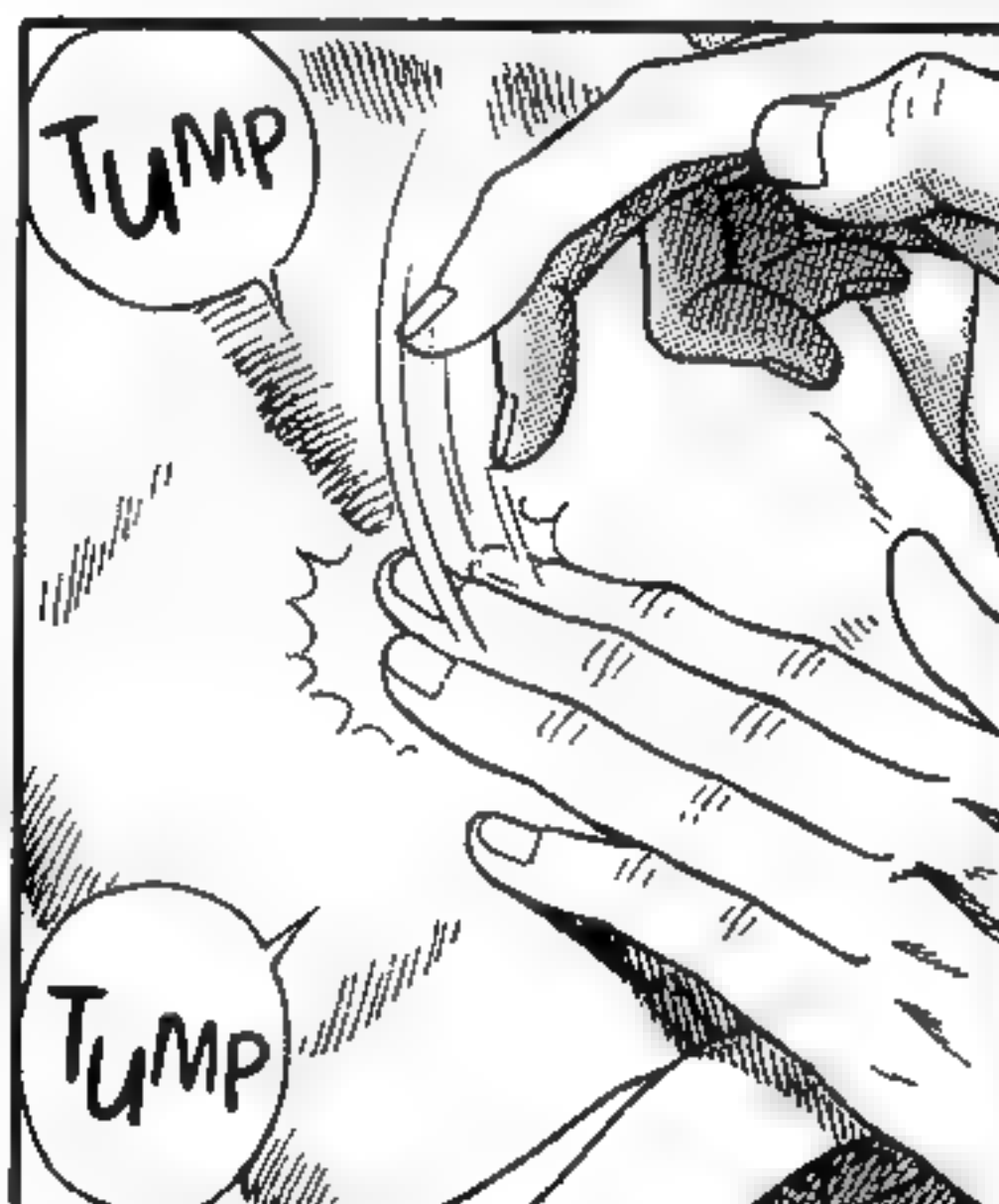
THIS IS  
BOARD-LIKE  
ABDOMINAL  
RIGIDITY!  
THE MUSCLES  
ARE AS HARD  
AS A ROCK!



\*A CONDITION WHERE THE MEMBRANE LINING THE ABDOMINAL WALL IS INFLAMED.

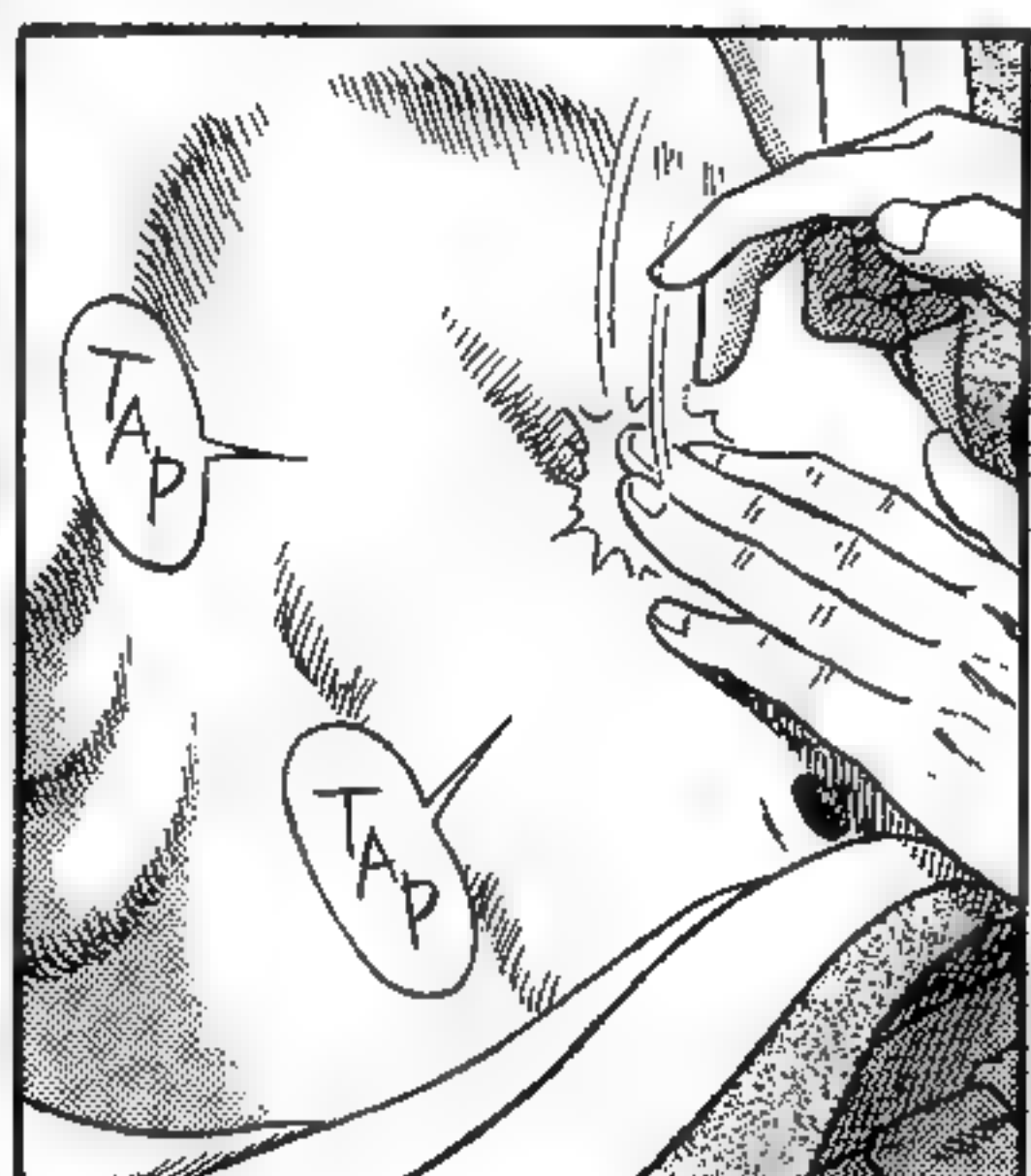


NOW PLEASE  
ROLL OVER  
ONTO YOUR  
LEFT SIDE.



TUMP

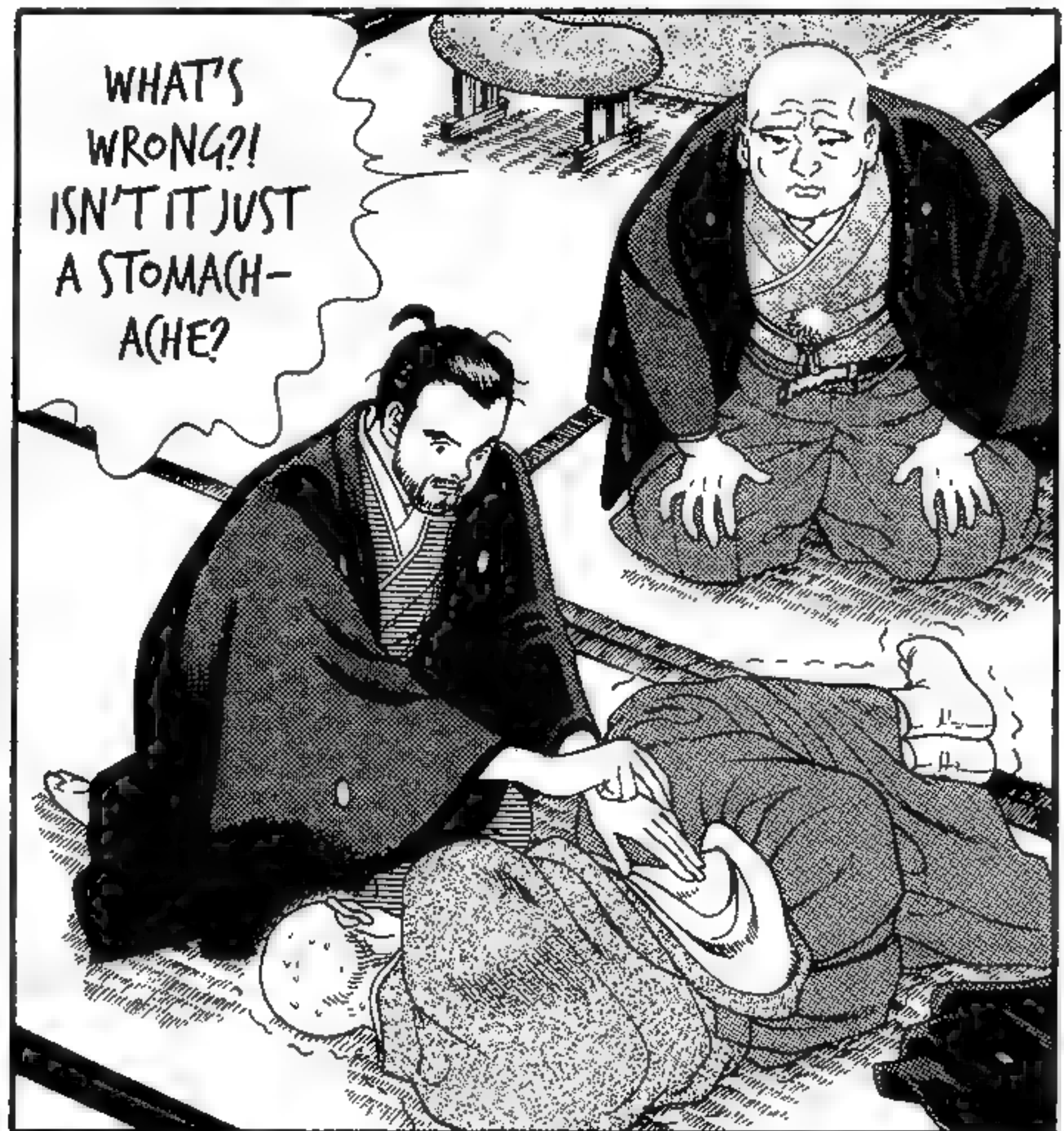
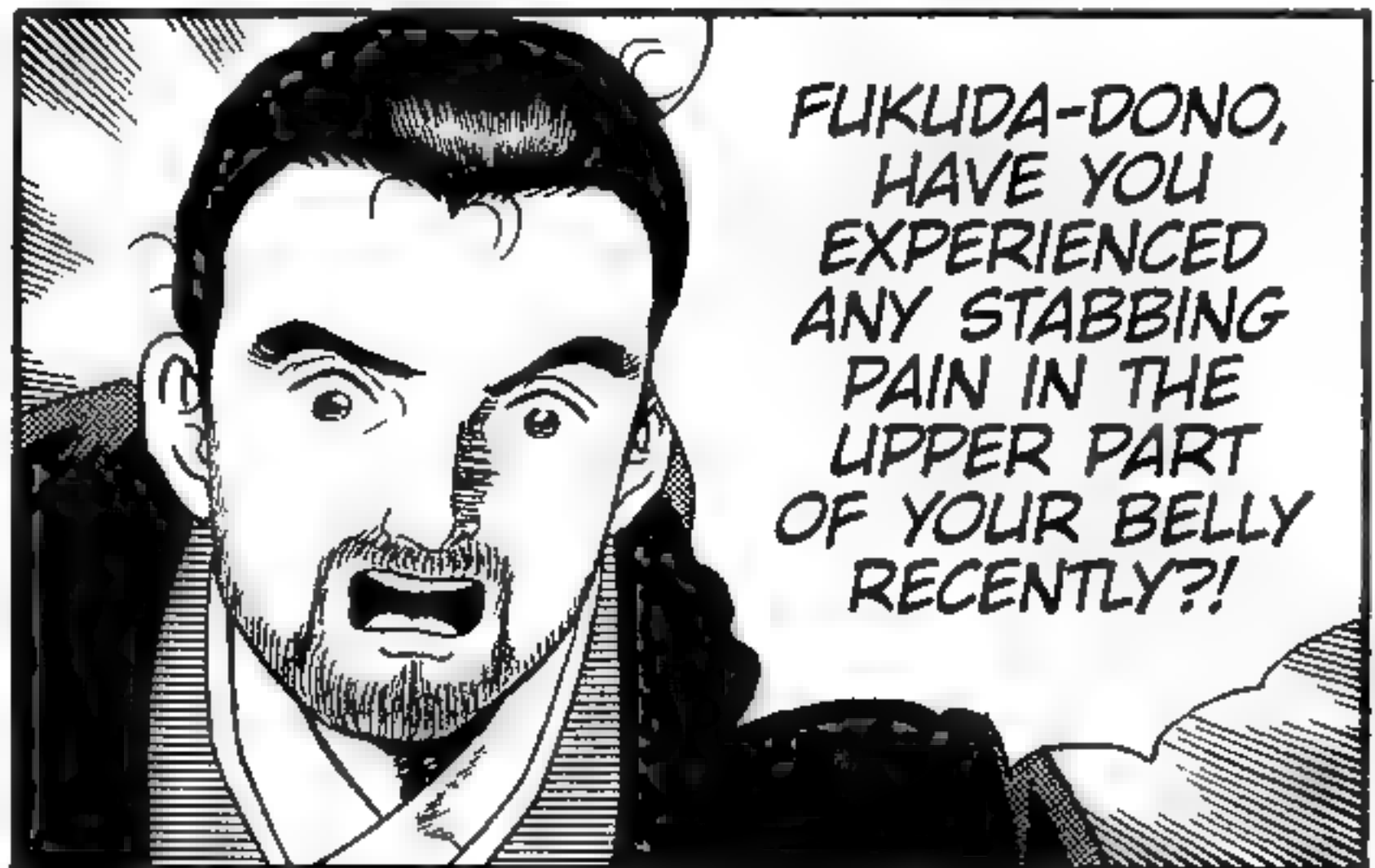
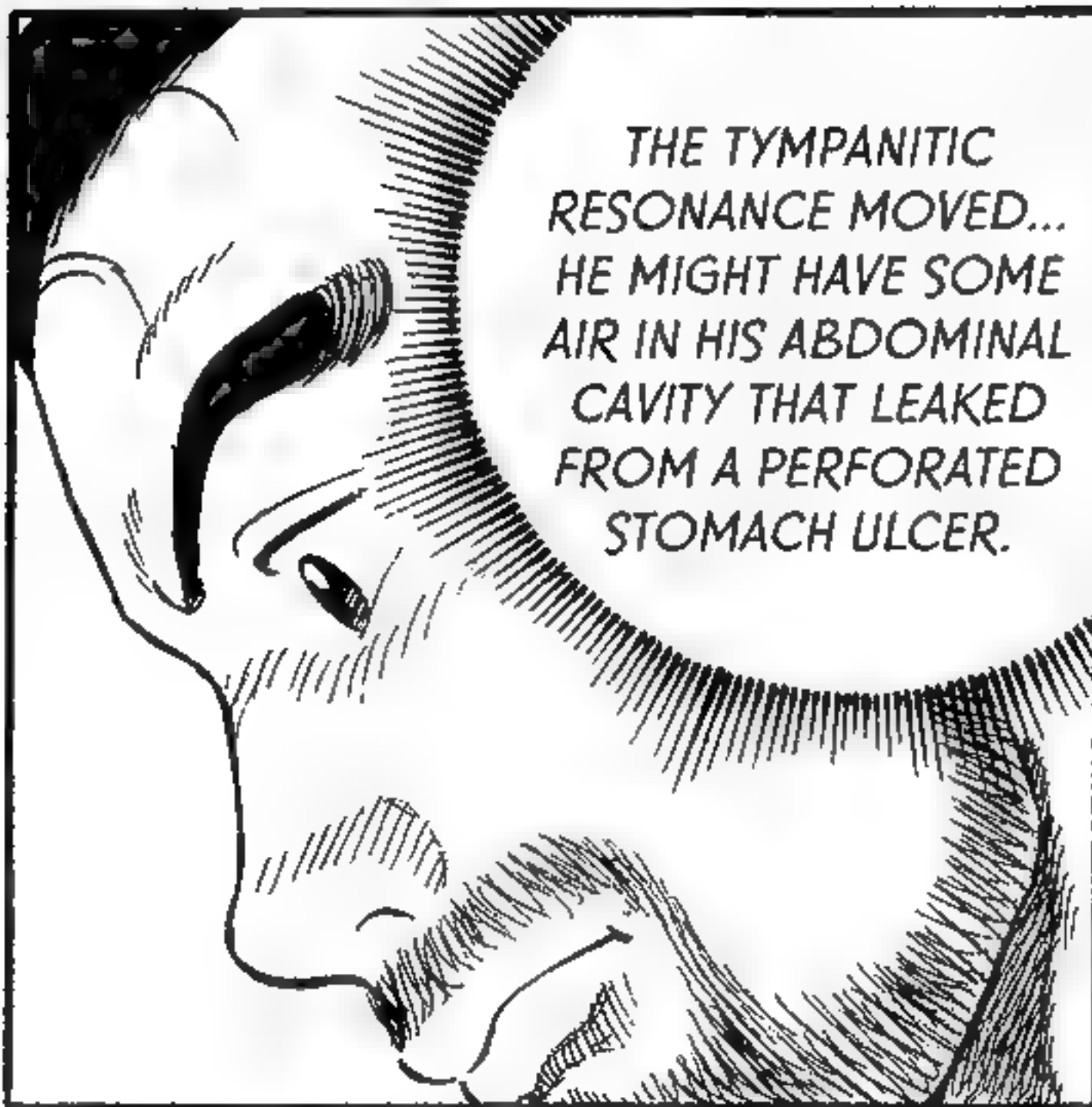
TUMP



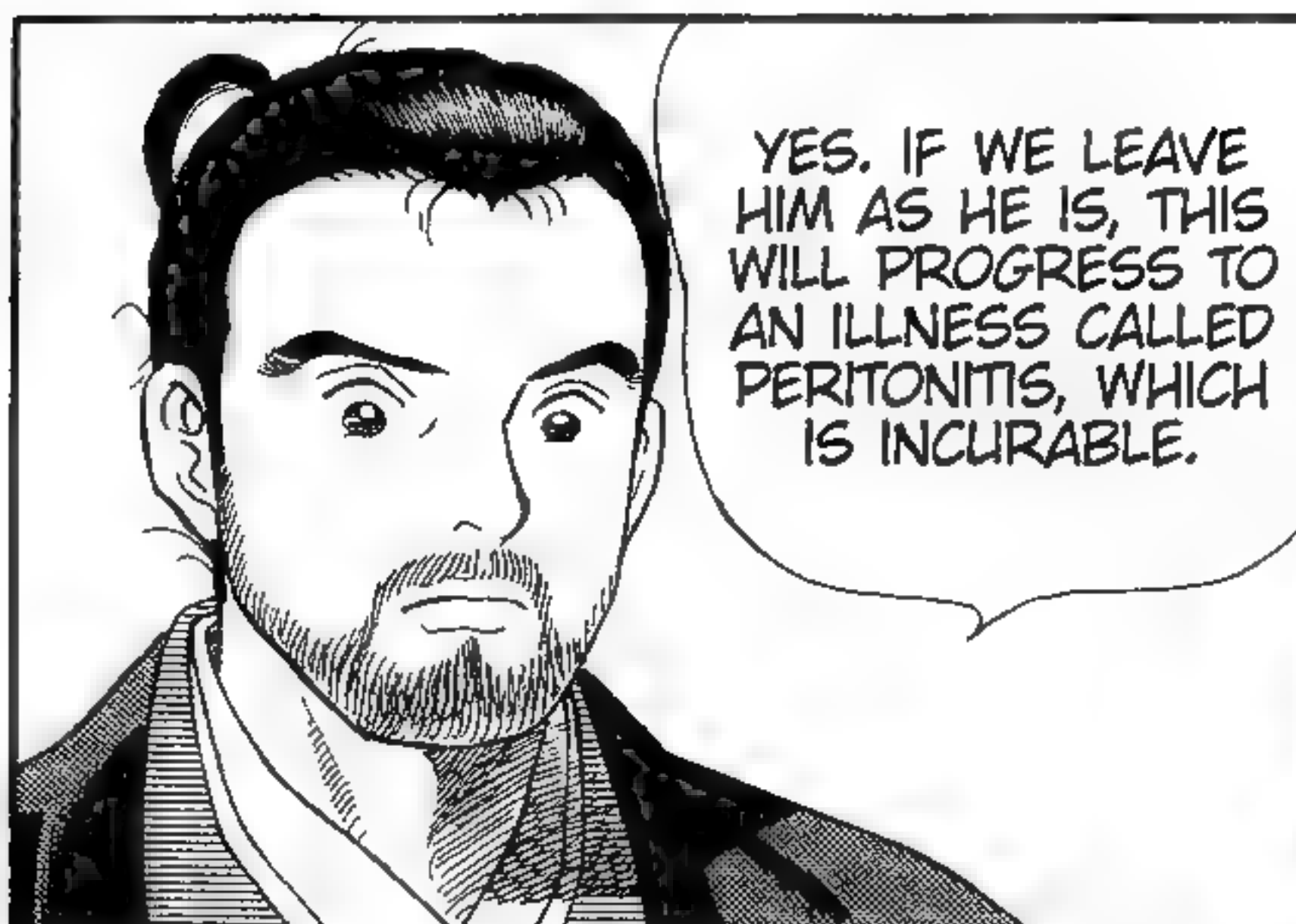
TAP

TAP













...?!

I'VE NEVER HEARD OF EVEN A SINGLE EXAMPLE OF SUCH A SURGERY EVEN AMONG WESTERN COUNTRIES!



WHAT NONSENSE! THAT KIND OF SURGERY IS IMPOSSIBLE!

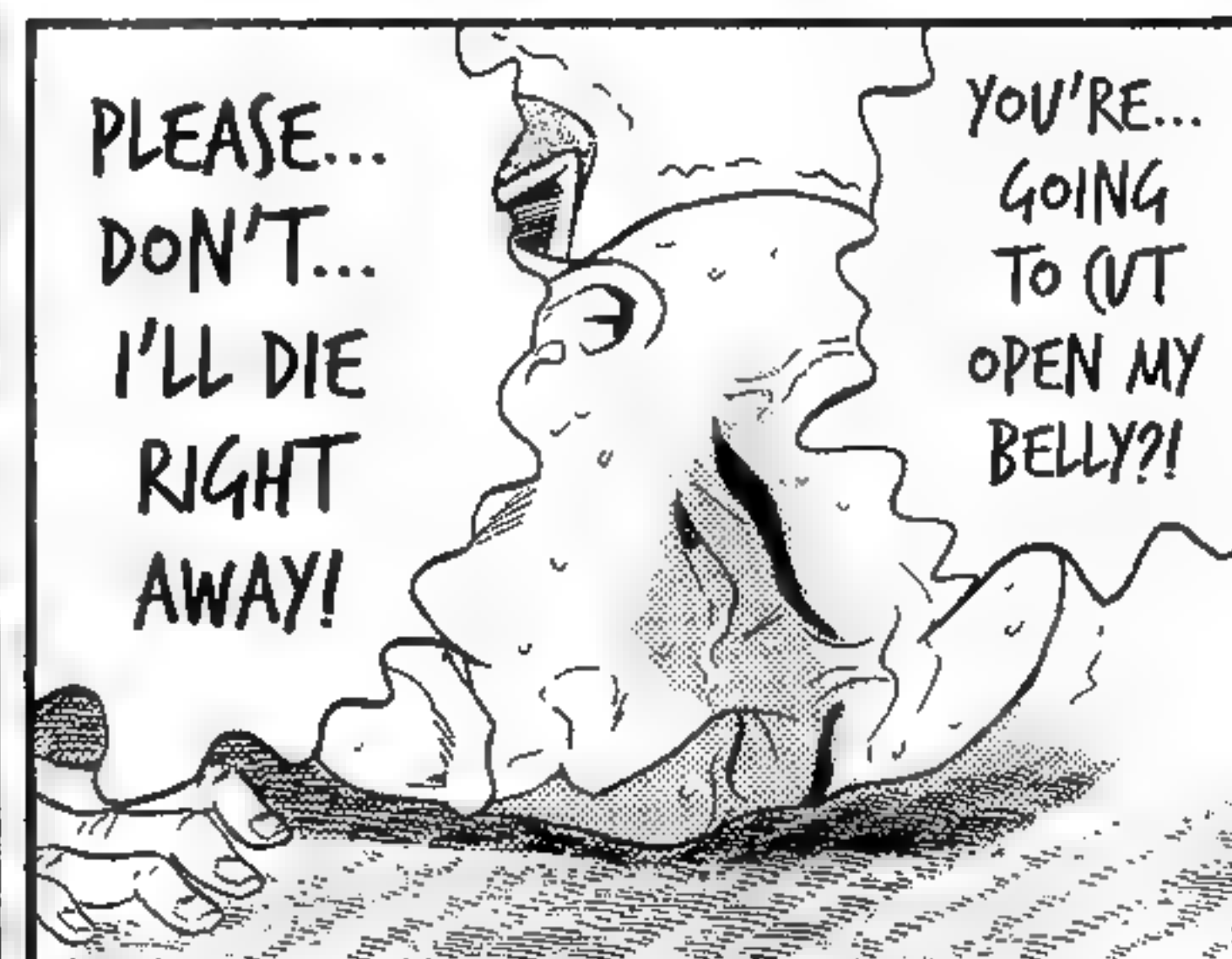
PLEASE LOOK INTO THE SUCCESS OF MY OPERATION ON THE LIVER OF A FOREIGN SAILOR AFTER OPENING UP HIS BELLY THEN. IT WAS LAST SEPTEMBER AT THE FOREIGNER'S SETTLEMENT IN YOKOHAMA.



YOU TRULY ARE A GREAT SCHOLAR, TAKI-SENSEI... YOU HAVE PROFICIENT MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE OF FOREIGN COUNTRIES AS WELL...



SENSEI... THAT'D BE HARAKIRI\* THEN...



PLEASE... DON'T... I'LL DIE RIGHT AWAY!

YOU'RE... GOING TO (NOT) OPEN MY BELLY?!

\*JAPANESE RITUAL SUICIDE WHERE THE PERSON DISEMBOWELS THEMSELVES THROUGH THE STOMACH.

BUT IF YOU FAIL... DON'T THINK THAT YOU'LL GET AWAY WITH IT!



FINE THEN... I'LL SEE THIS SURGERY WITH MY OWN EYES! DO IT HERE AT THE MEDICAL ACADEMY!





BUT MINA-  
KATA-SENSEI,  
WHAT 'BOU  
OUR PLANS?!

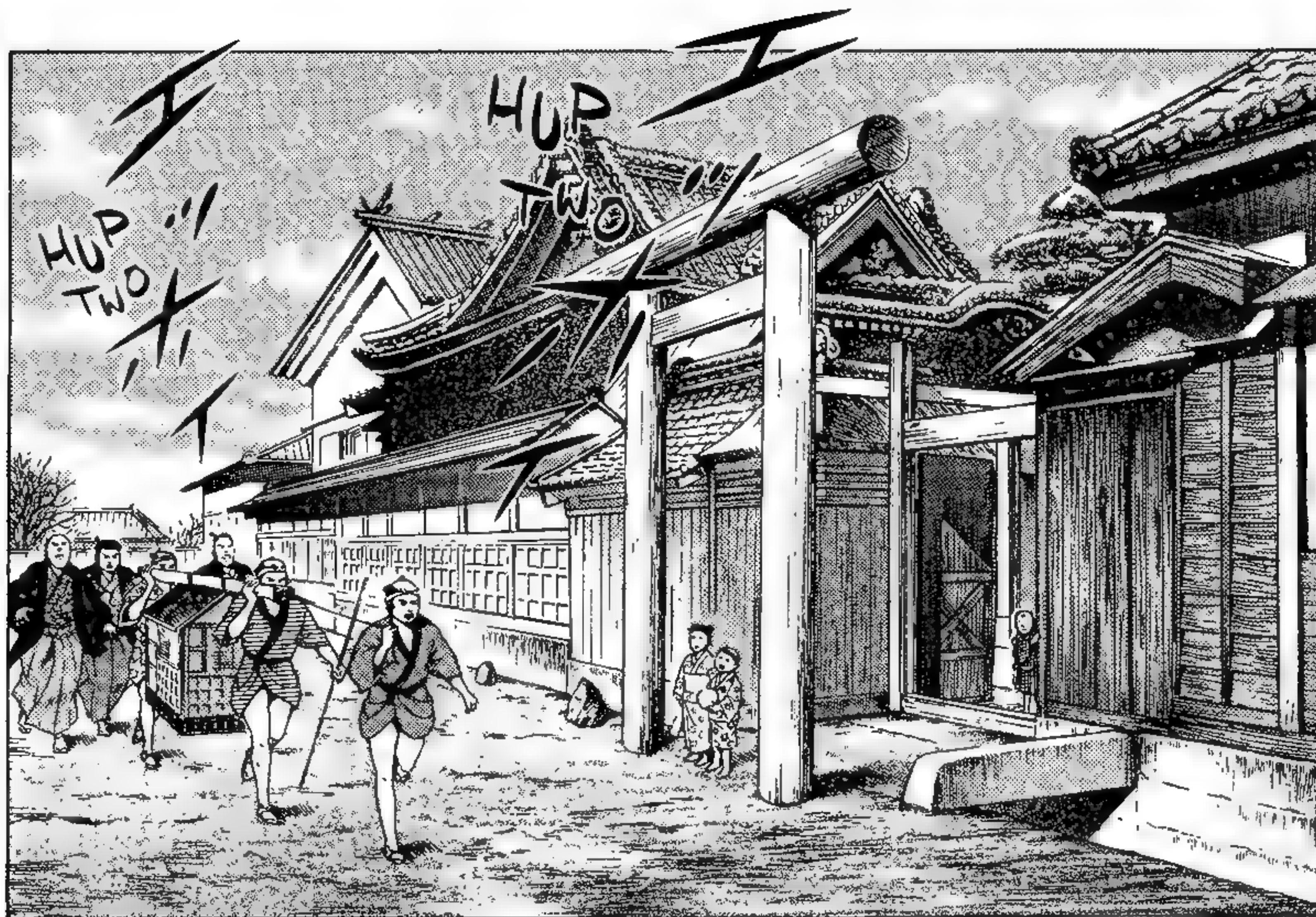
YER... GONNA  
PERFORM THE  
SURG'RY RIGHT  
NOW?!



TO WIN OV'R  
NOKAZE'S  
HEART!

TONIGHT I WAS  
PLANNIN' ON  
MAKIN' SURE...









WHEN I WAS  
STILL AN UNPAID  
INTERN AND ASSISTED  
WITH THE SURGERY  
FOR A PERFORATED  
STOMACH ULCER...

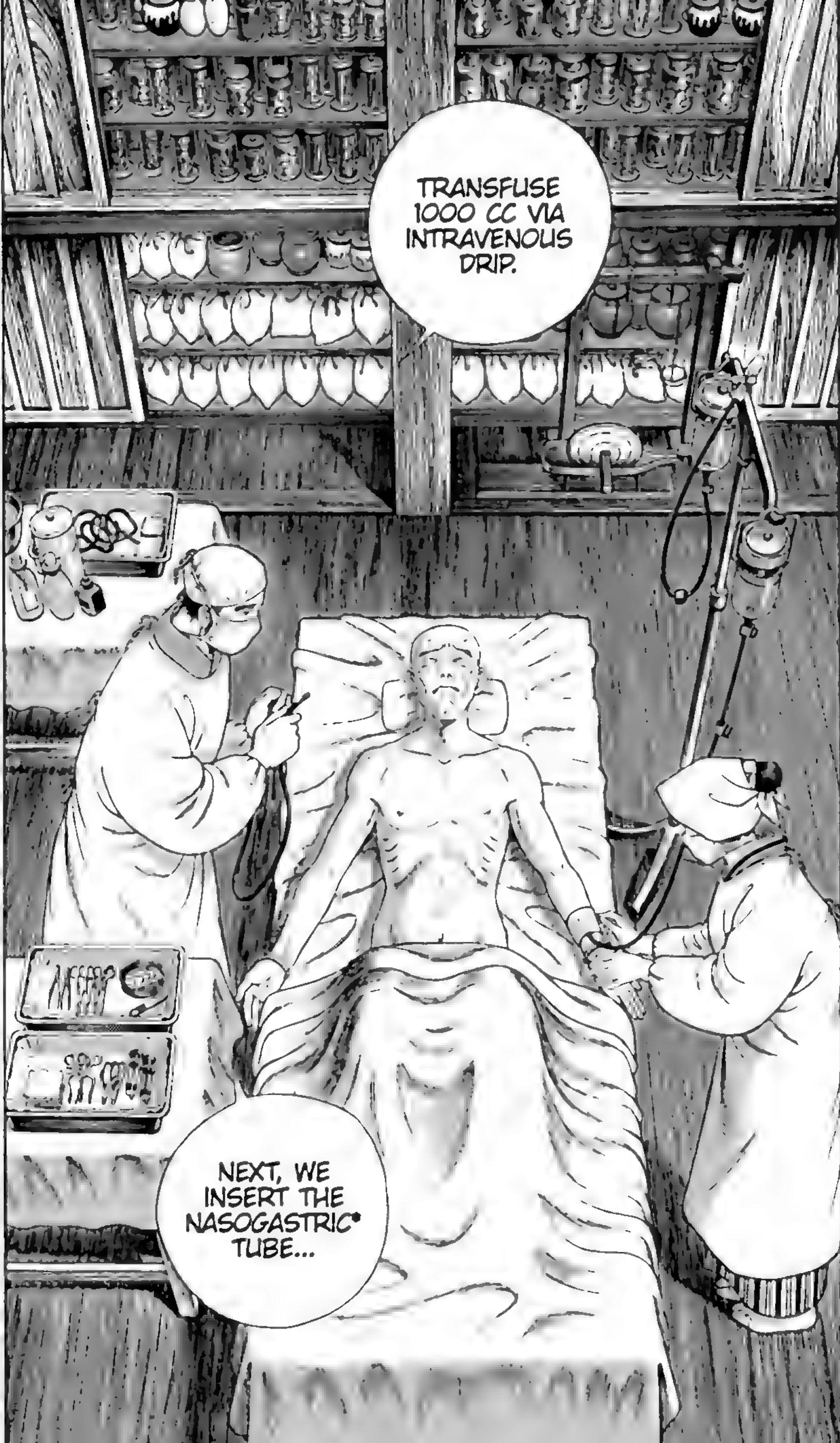
LET'S TRY  
TO REMEMBER  
IN DETAIL WHAT  
IT WAS LIKE...



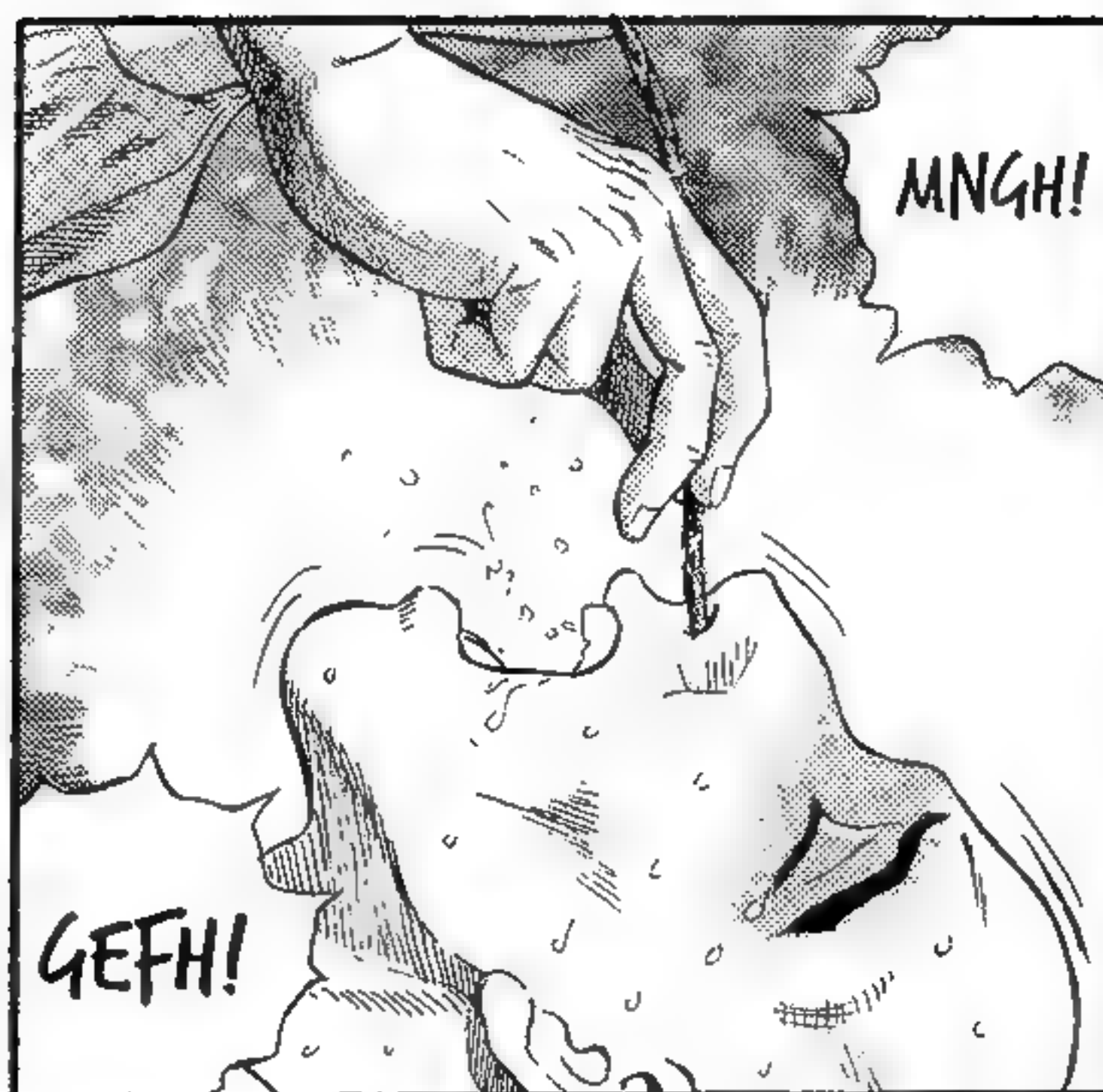
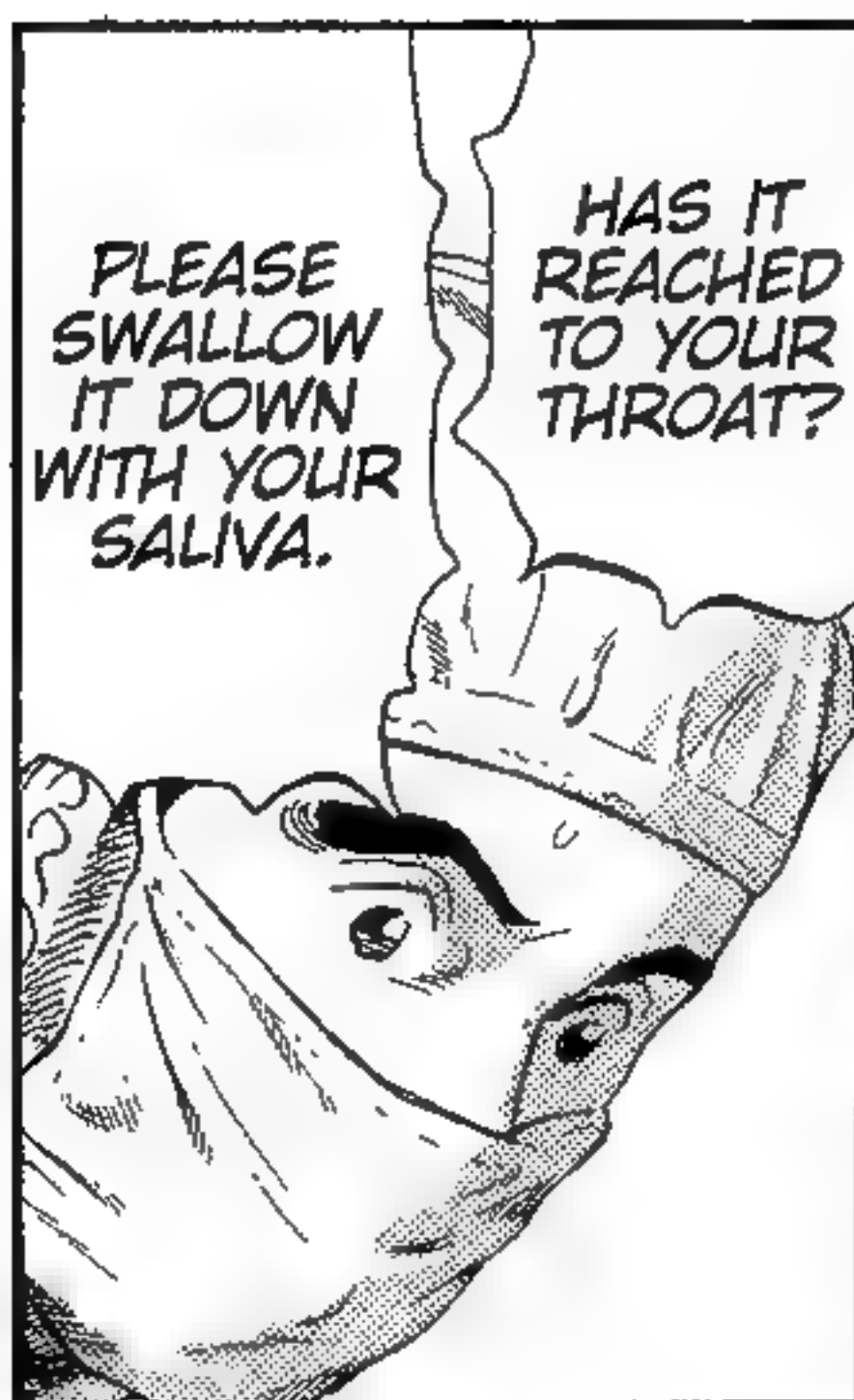
\*TO PREVENT CONTENTS OF THE STOMACH FROM LEAKING OUT INTO THE ABDOMINAL CAVITY, THIS TUBE IS INSERTED THROUGH THE NOSE AND INTO THE STOMACH TO REMOVE THE CONTENTS.

TRANSFUSE  
1000 CC VIA  
INTRAVENOUS  
DRIP.

NEXT, WE  
INSERT THE  
NASOGASTRIC\*  
TUBE...



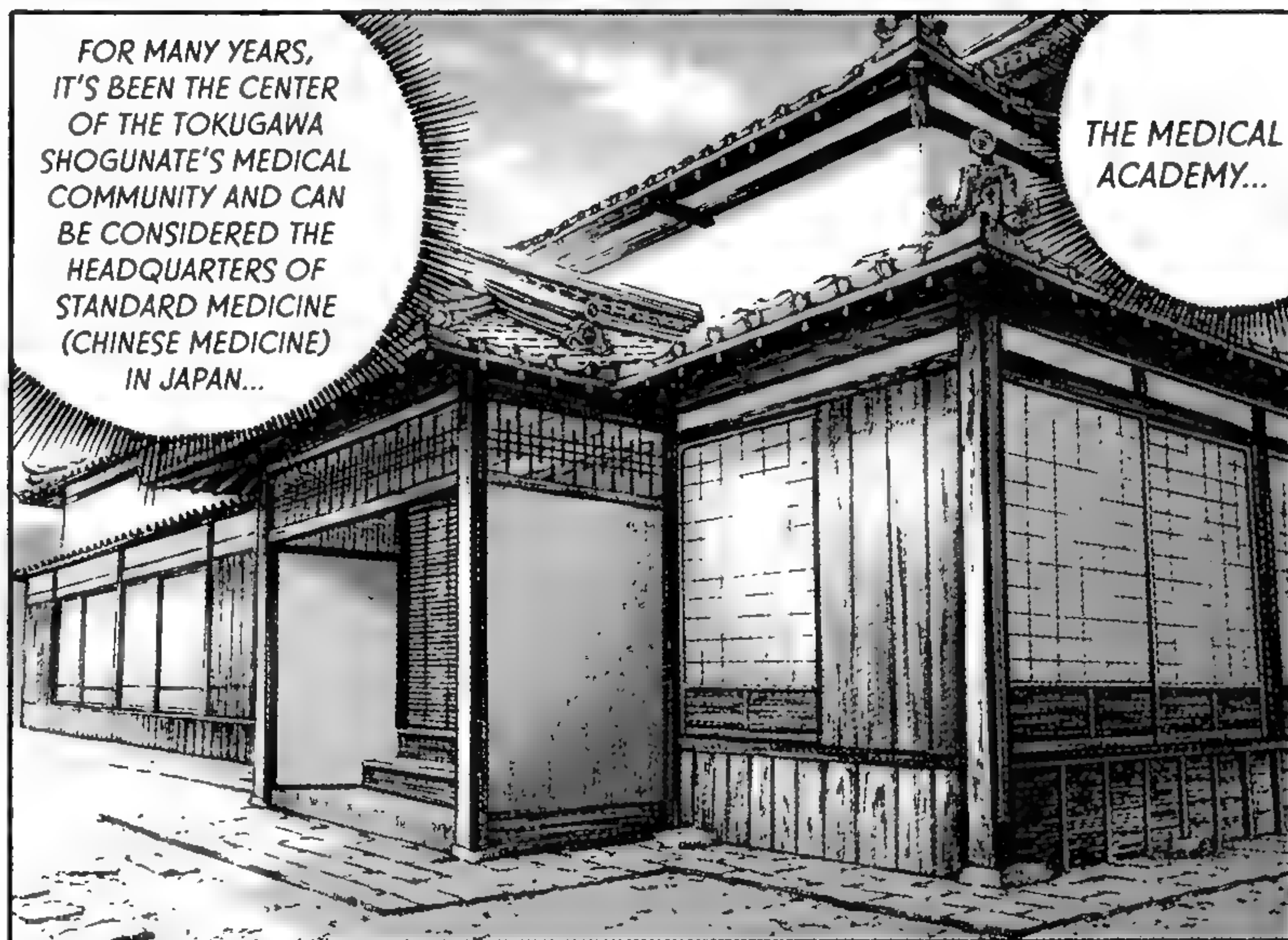






# TRUTH CHAPTER

## PART 2: CLUTCHES OF EVIL





**TRUTH CHAPTER**  
**PART 2: CLUTCHES OF EVIL**

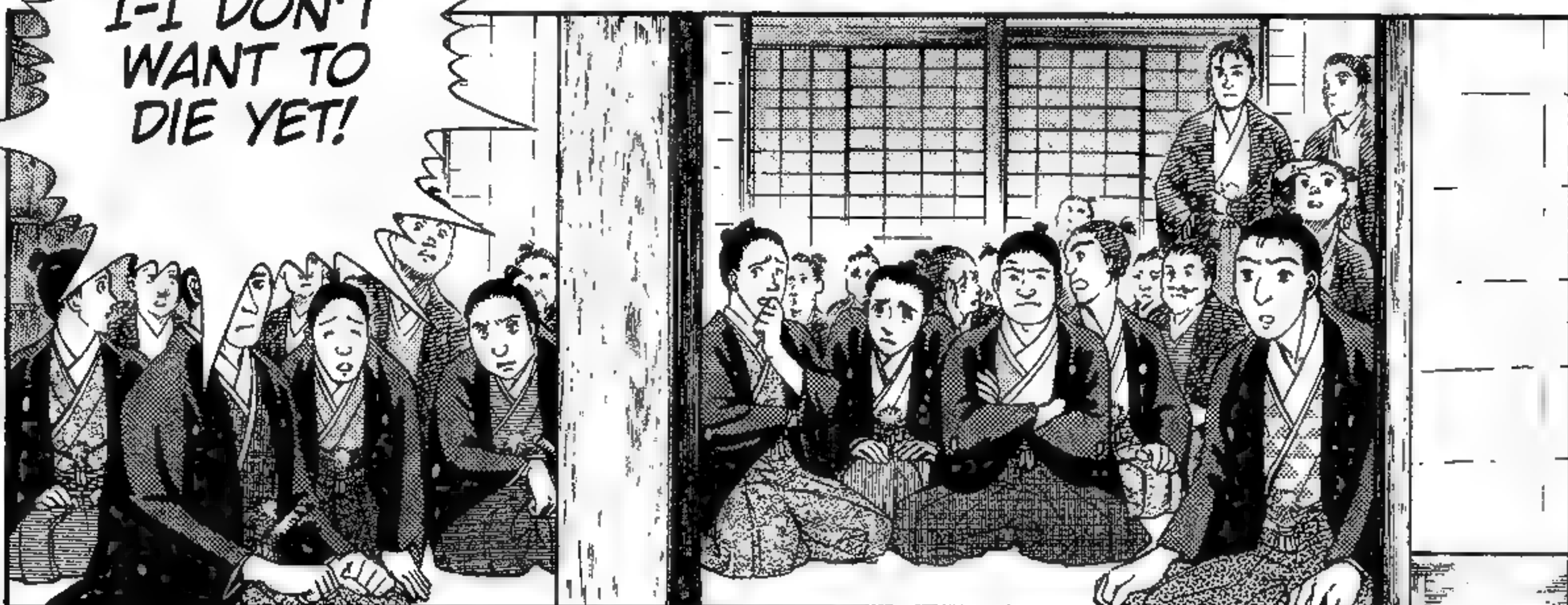
N...NO!!  
THERE'S NO  
WAY THAT  
OPENING UP  
MY BELLY  
WILL SAVE  
MY LIFE!





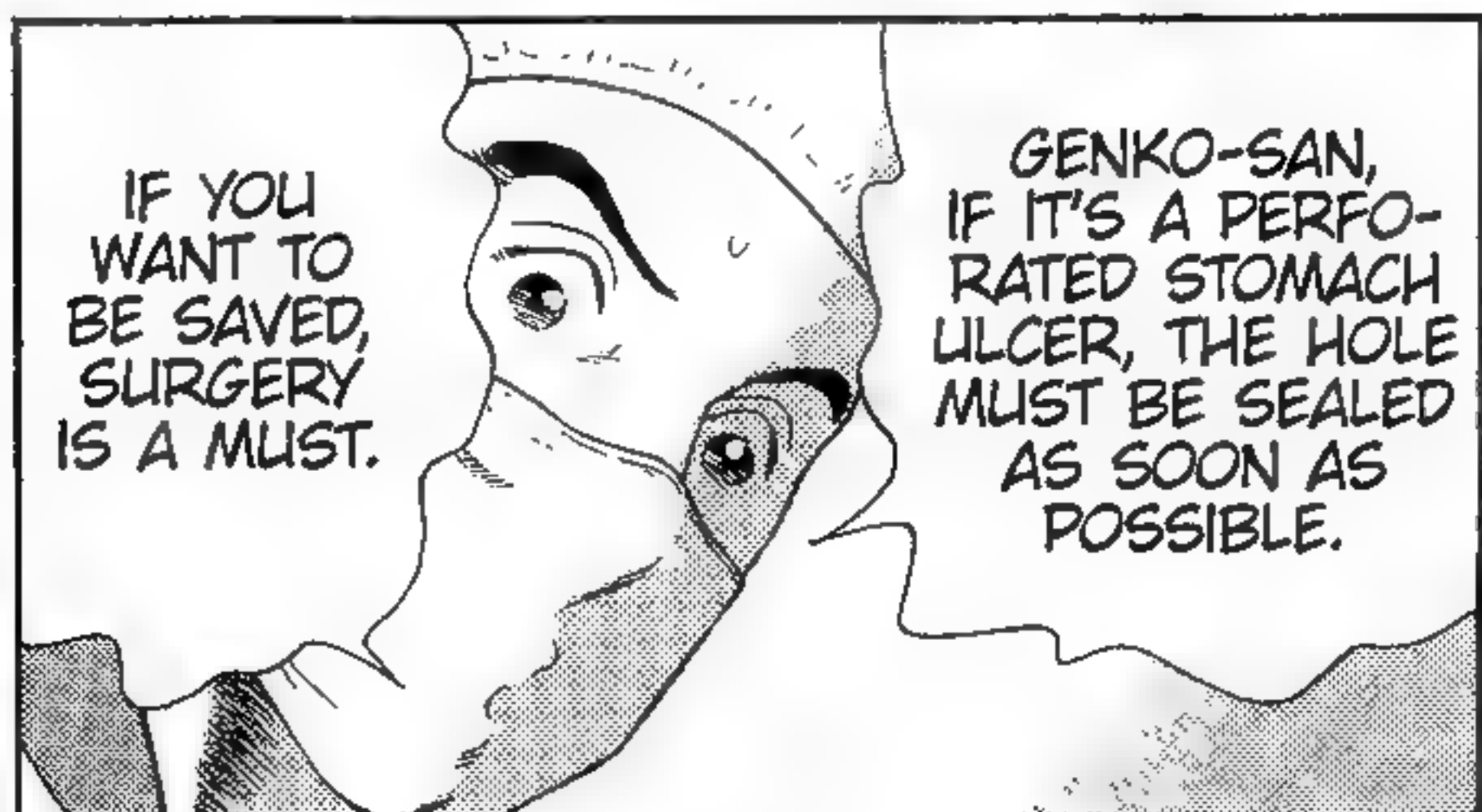
I DON'T  
NEED THIS  
SURGERY!  
GET ME  
OUT OF  
HERE!!

I-I DON'T  
WANT TO  
DIE YET!



PLEASE  
HELP ME!

PLEASE,  
GENEN-SAMA!  
DON'T LET  
HIM DO THIS  
TO ME!



IF YOU  
WANT TO  
BE SAVED,  
SURGERY  
IS A MUST.

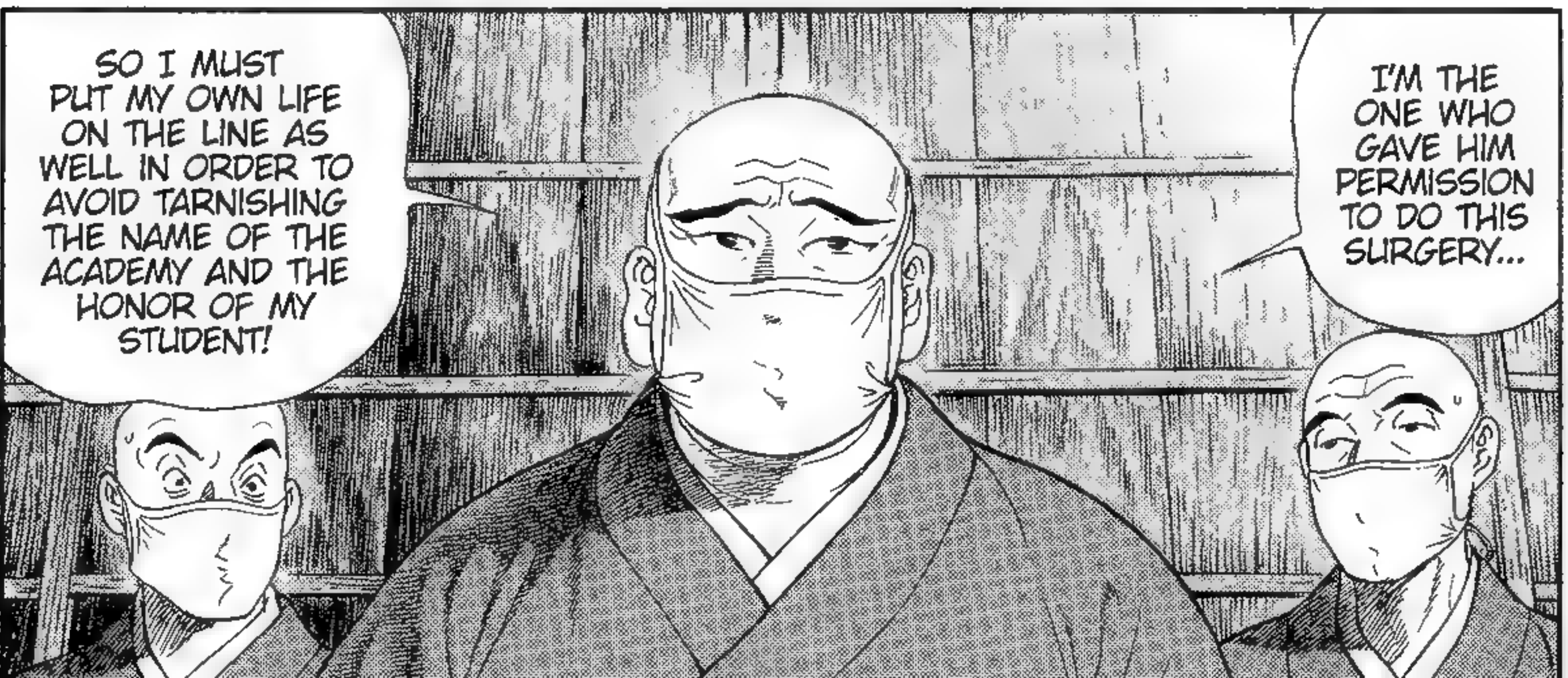
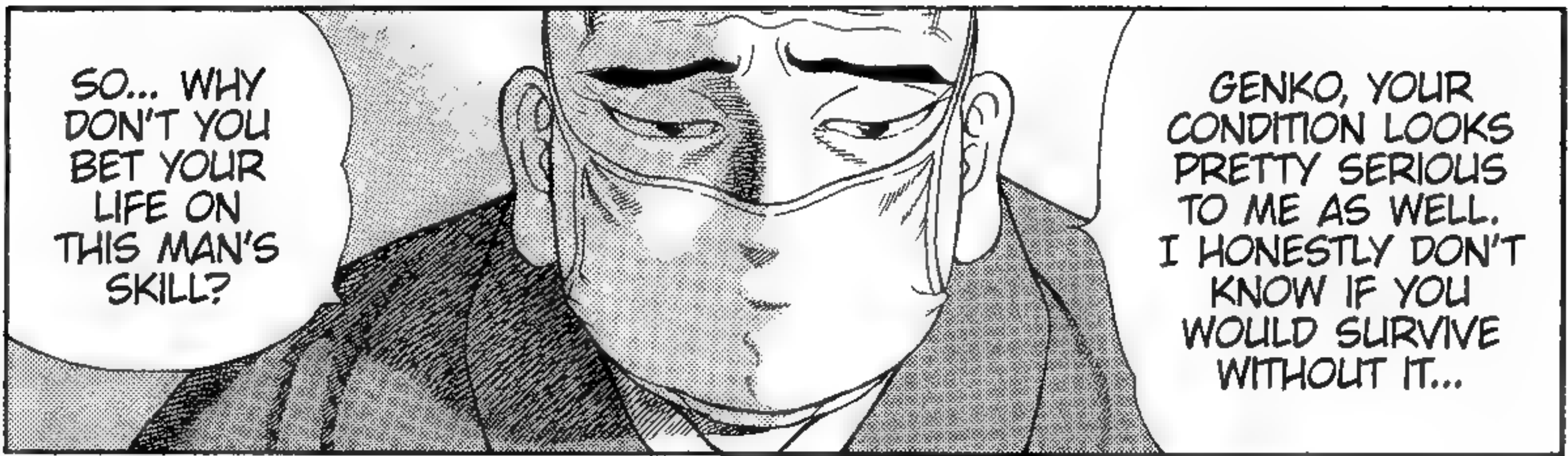
GENKO-SAN,  
IF IT'S A PERFO-  
RATED STOMACH  
ULCER, THE HOLE  
MUST BE SEALED  
AS SOON AS  
POSSIBLE.



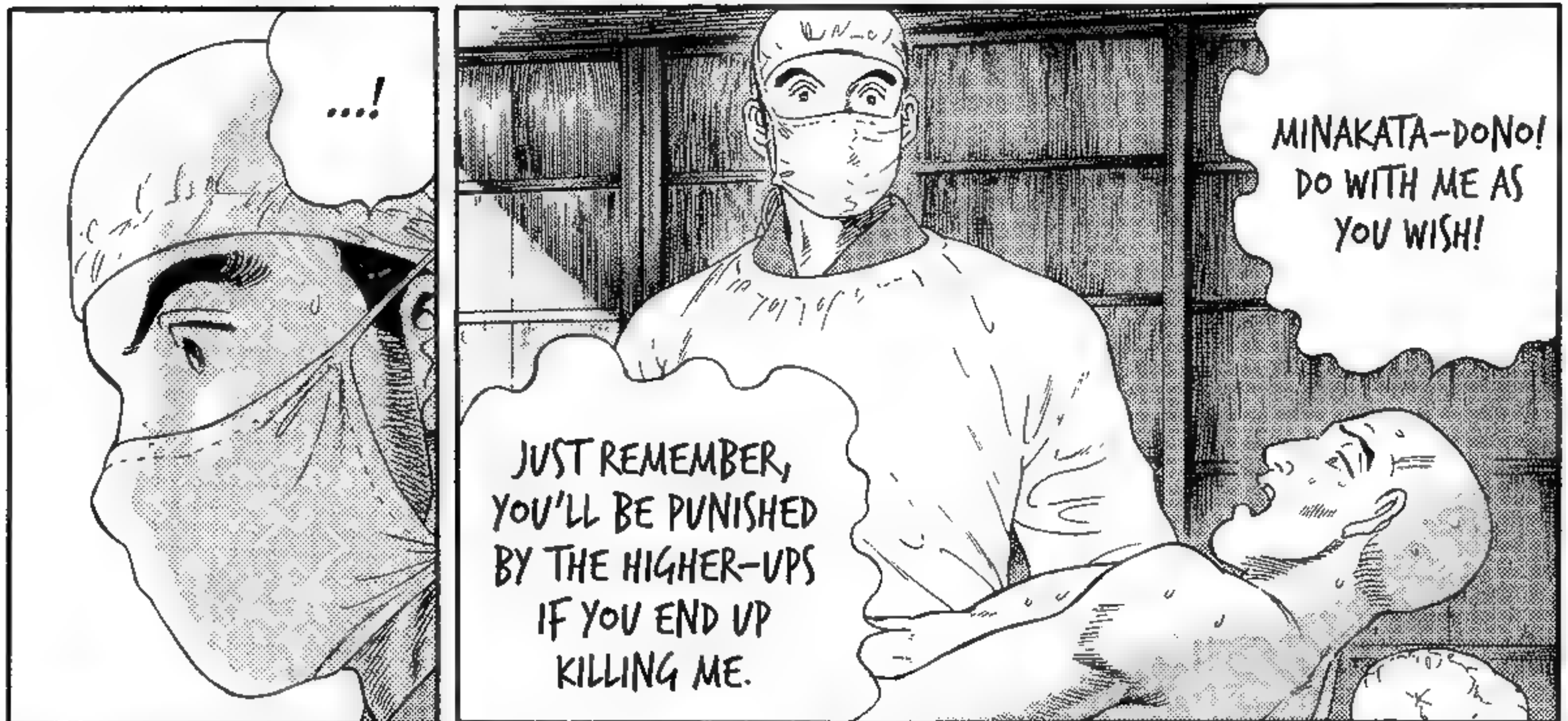
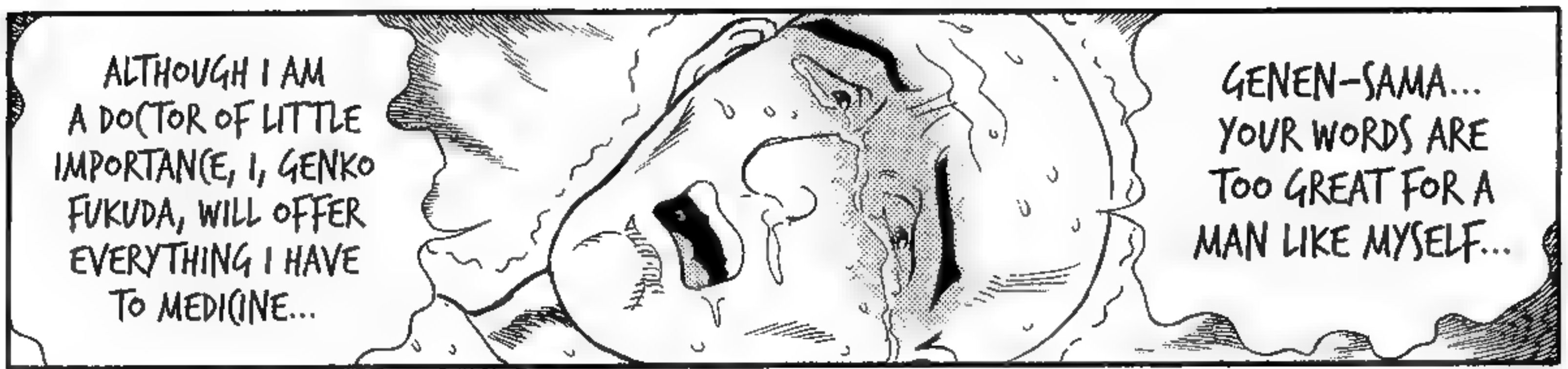
I.. I  
WOULD  
DIE IN  
VAIN!

I DON'T  
BELIEVE YOU!  
WHAT ARE  
YOU GOING  
TO DO IF  
THERE'S NO  
HOLE IN MY  
STOMACH?!













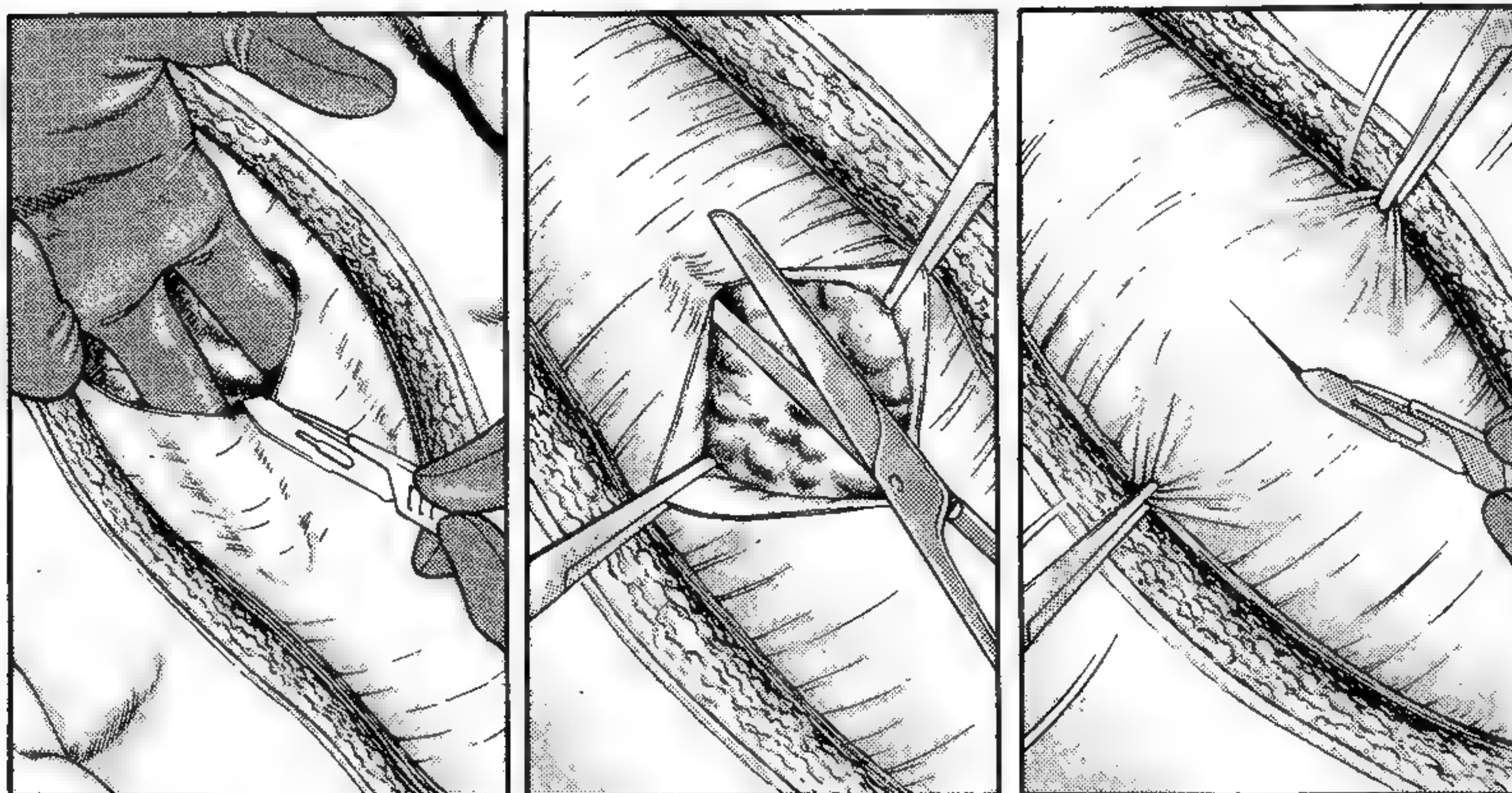
\*A JAPANESE PROVERB MEANING TO ENDANGER ONESELF FOR SOMEONE ELSE.



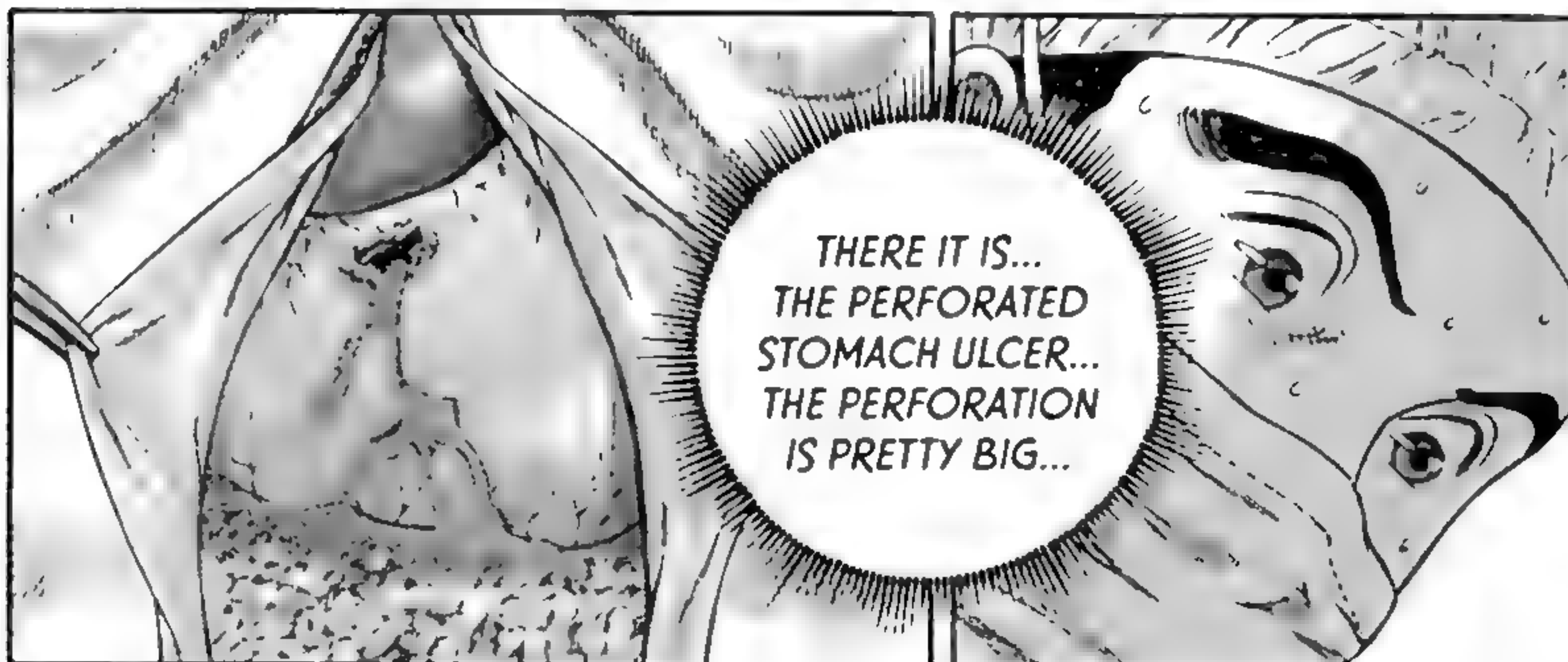
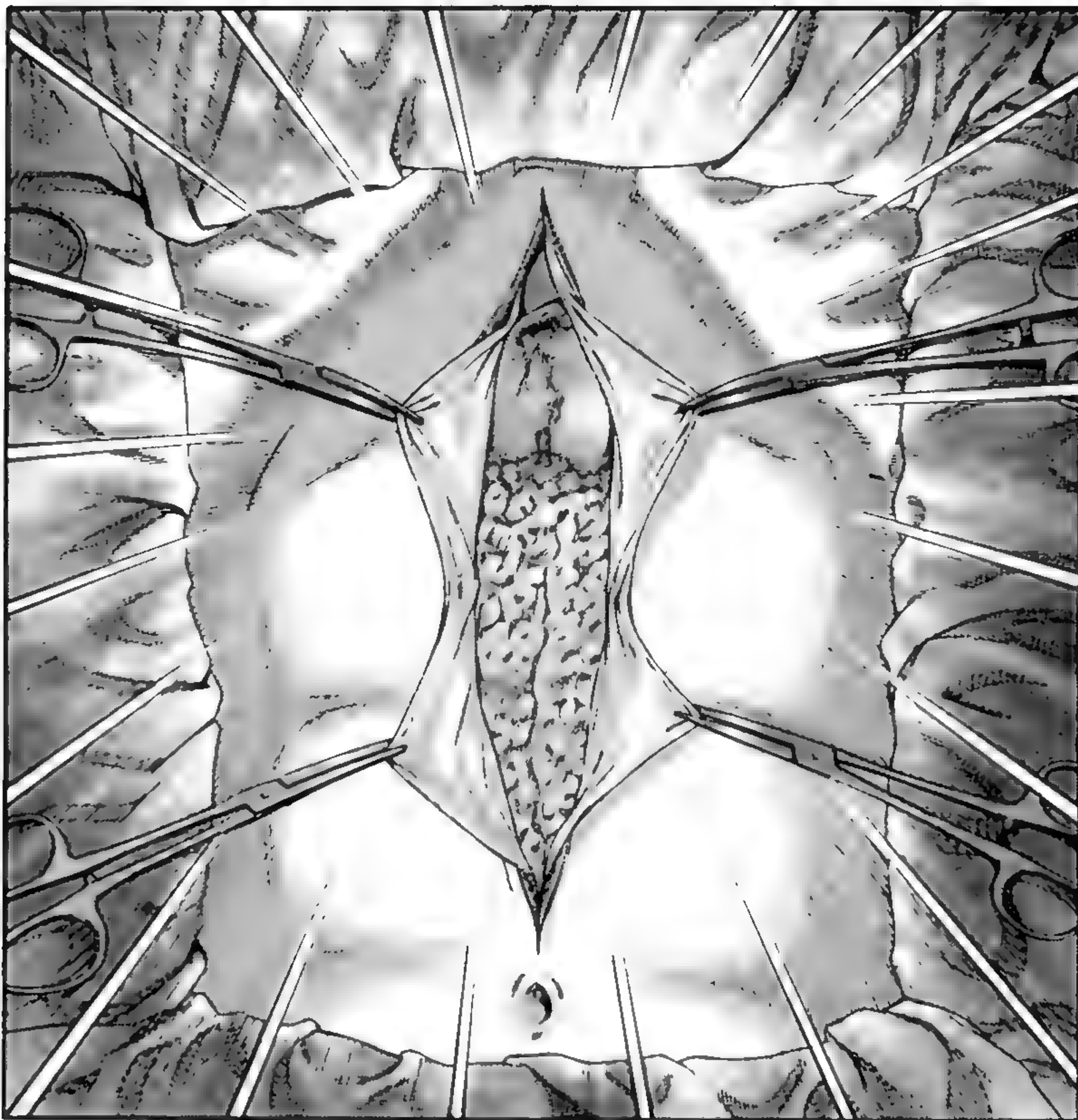




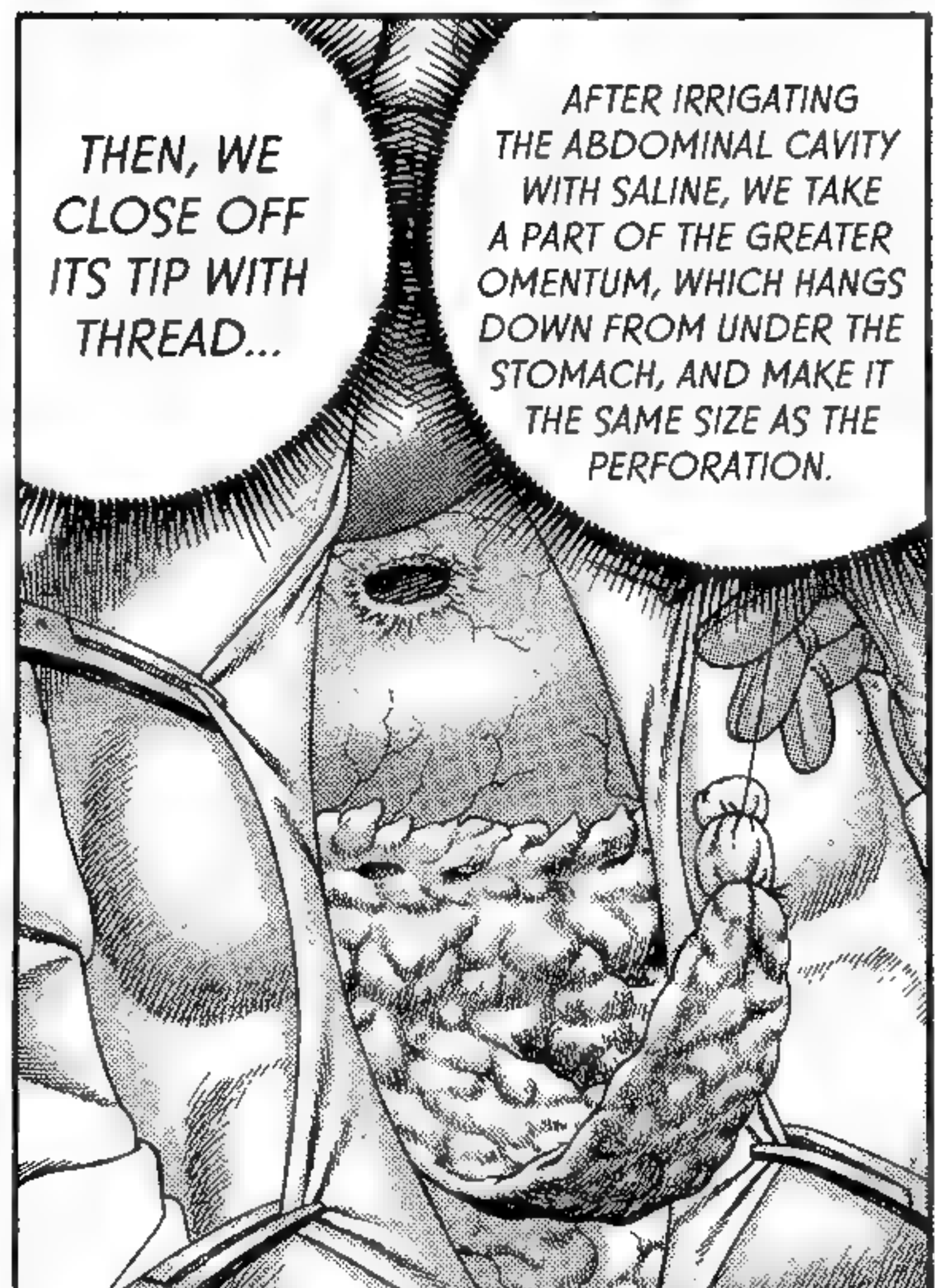
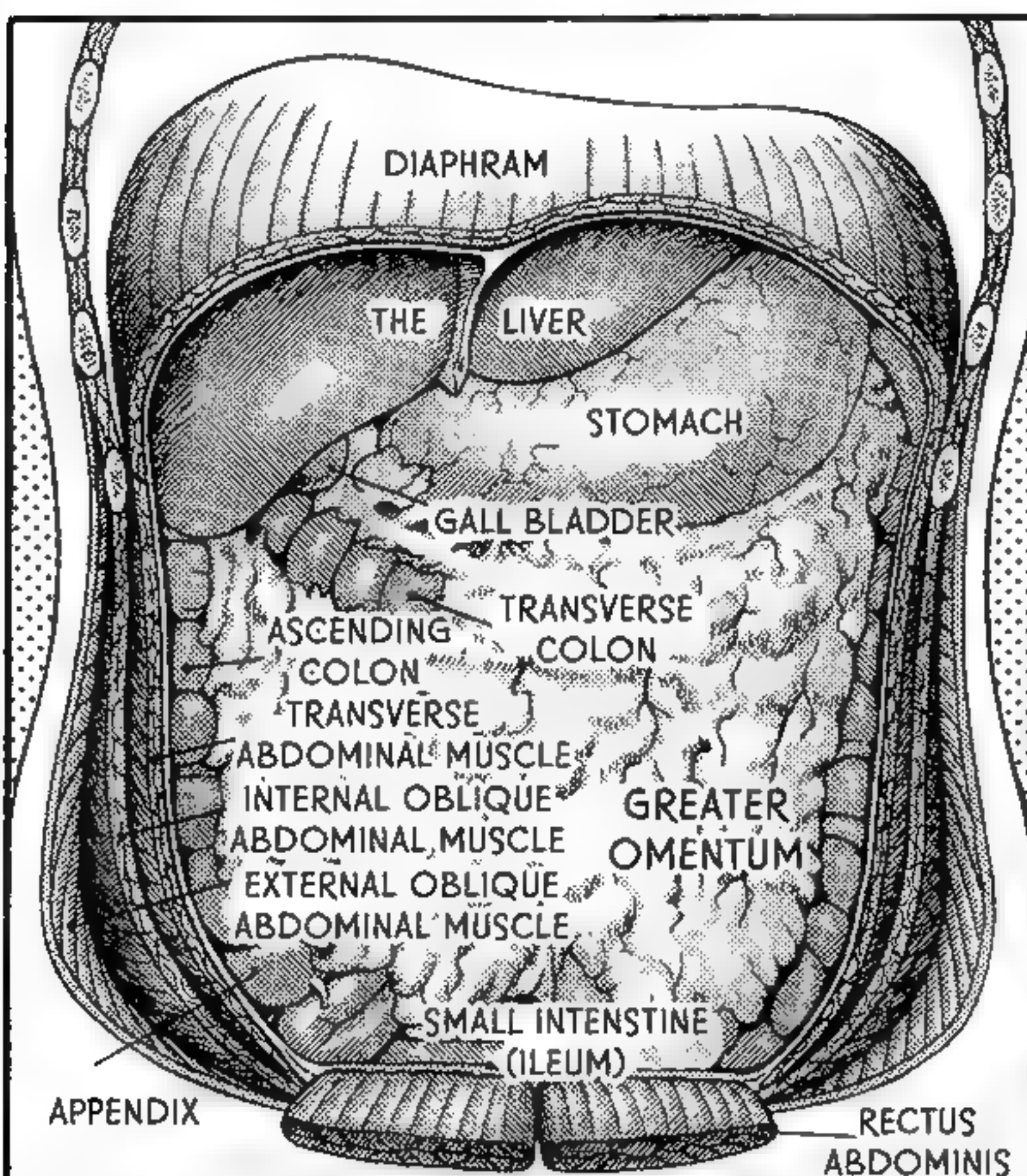
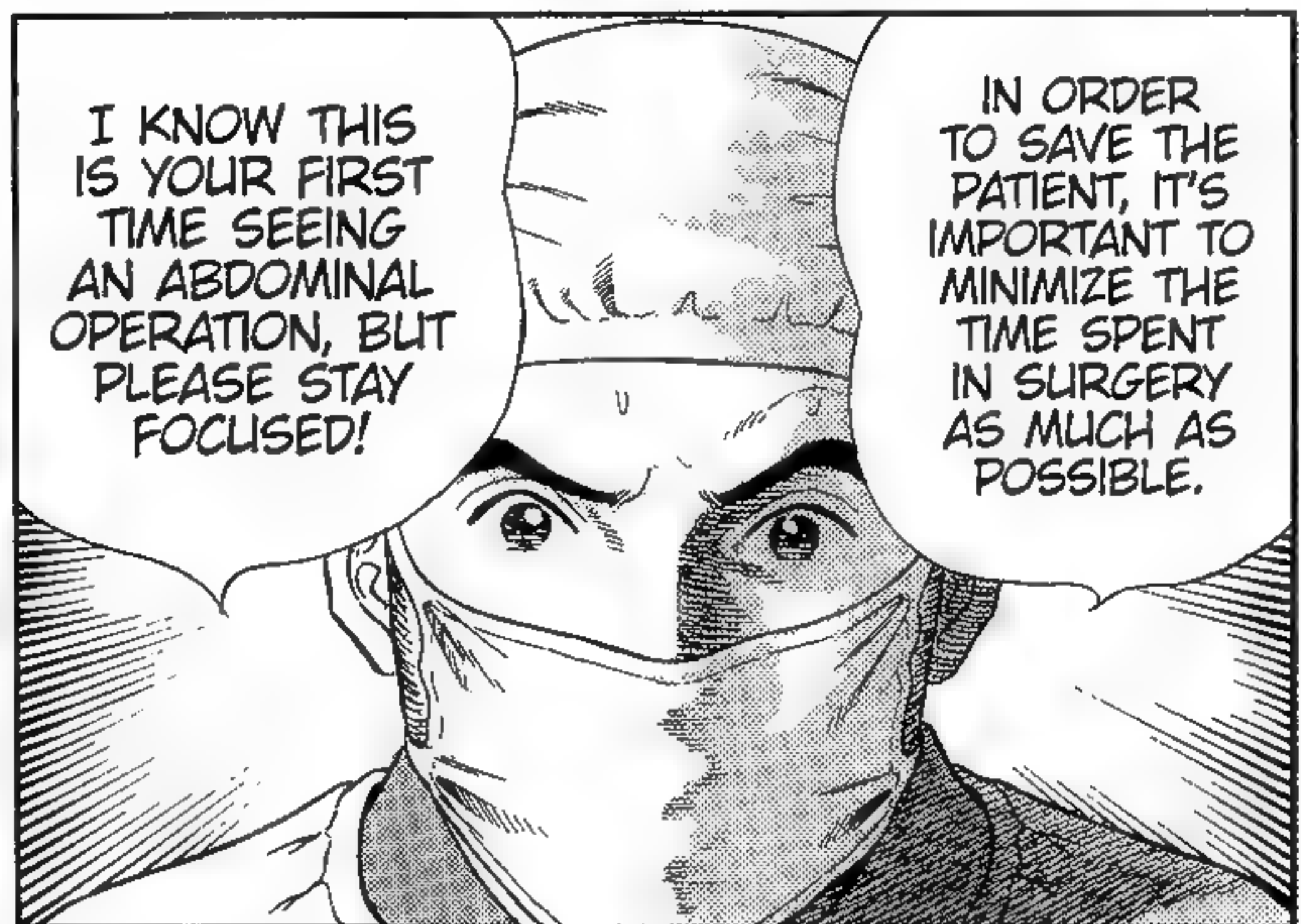
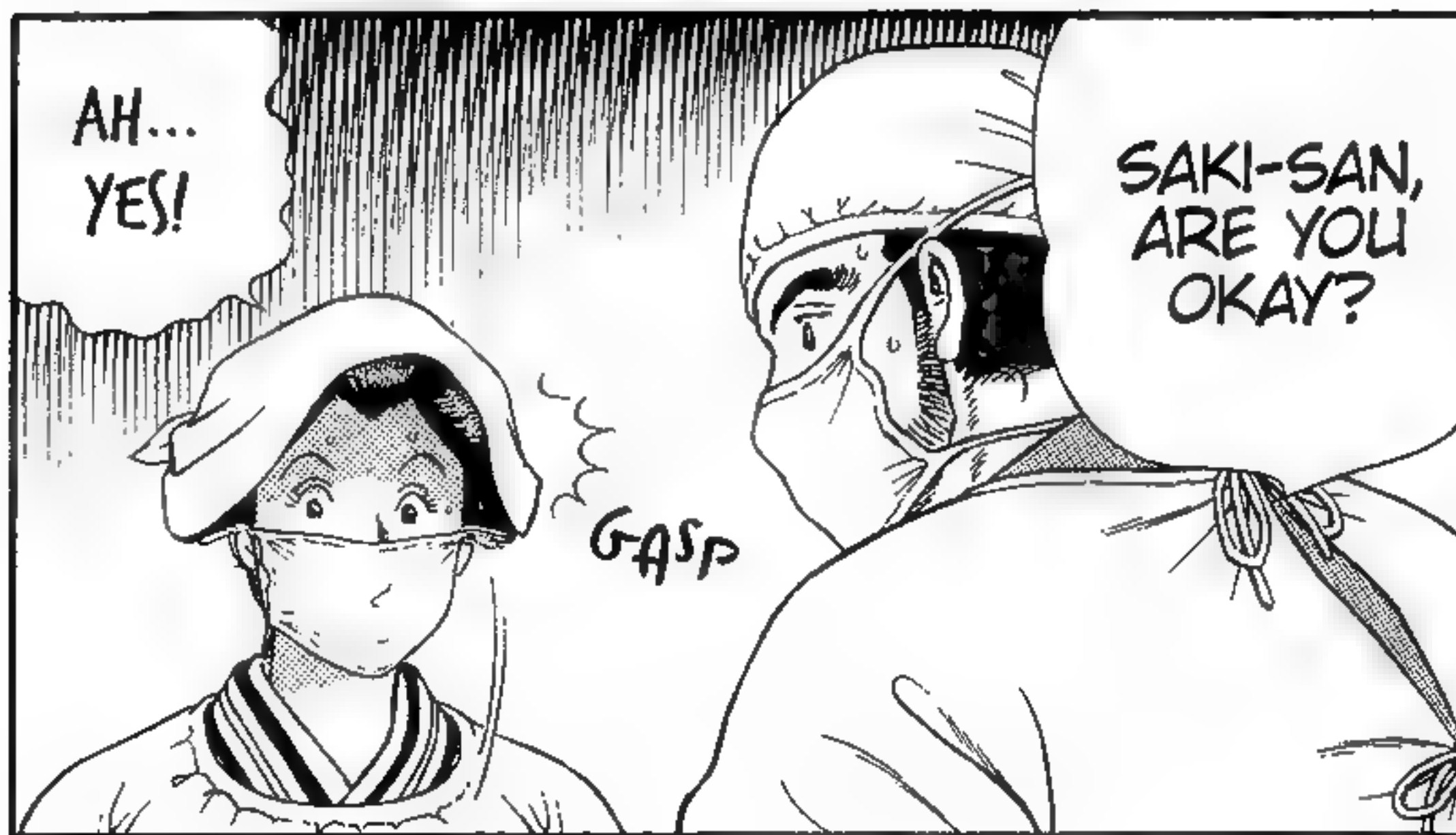






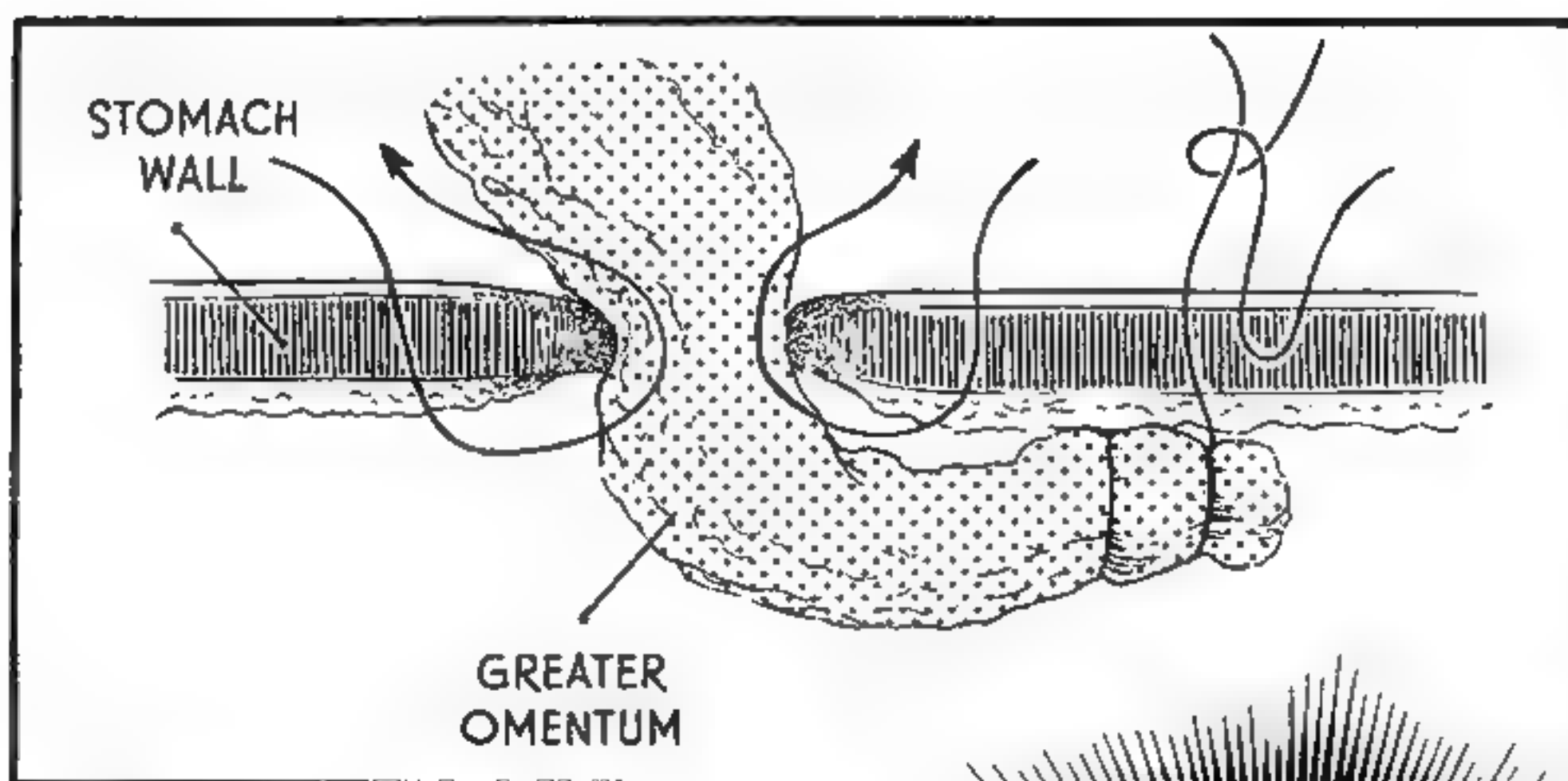




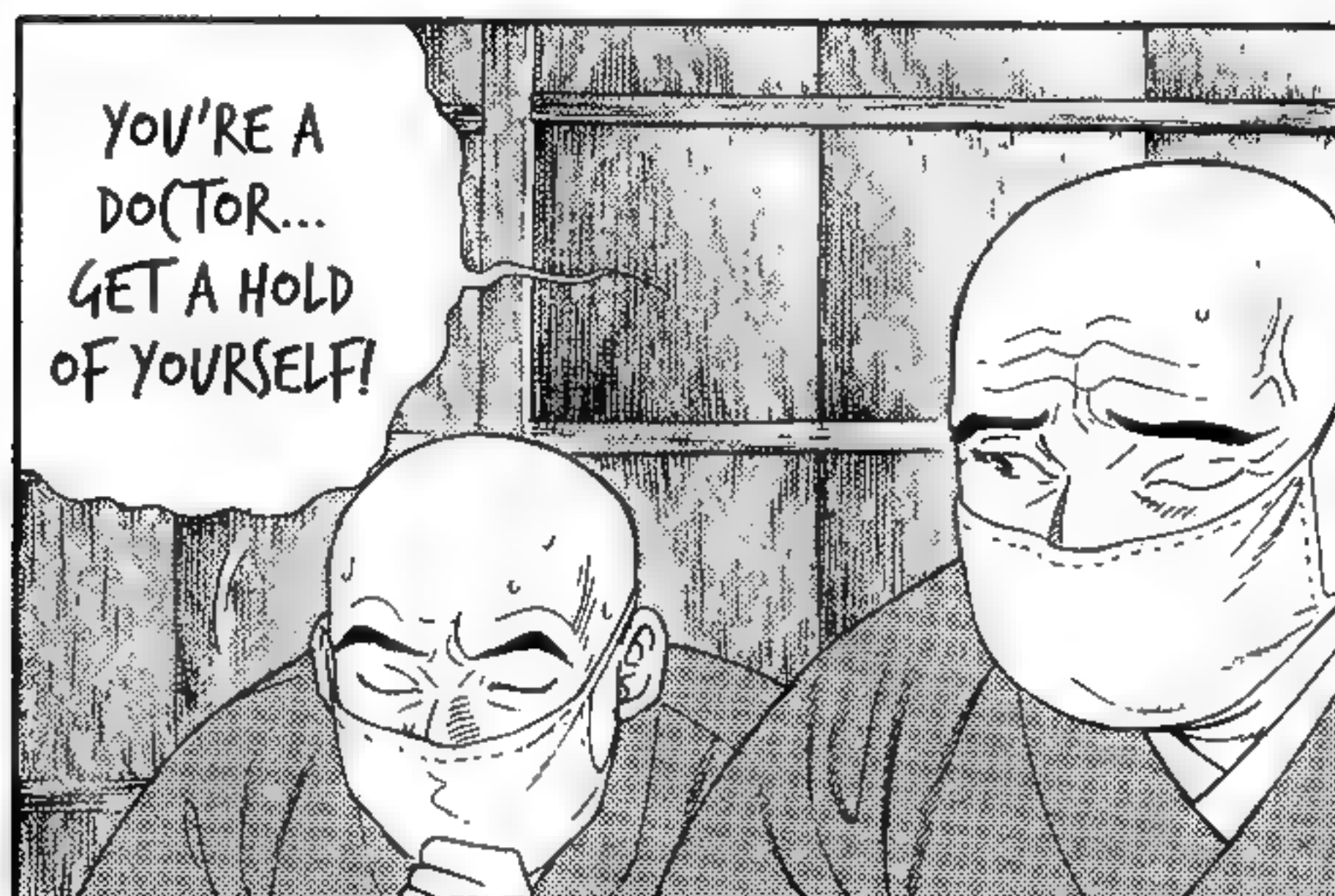
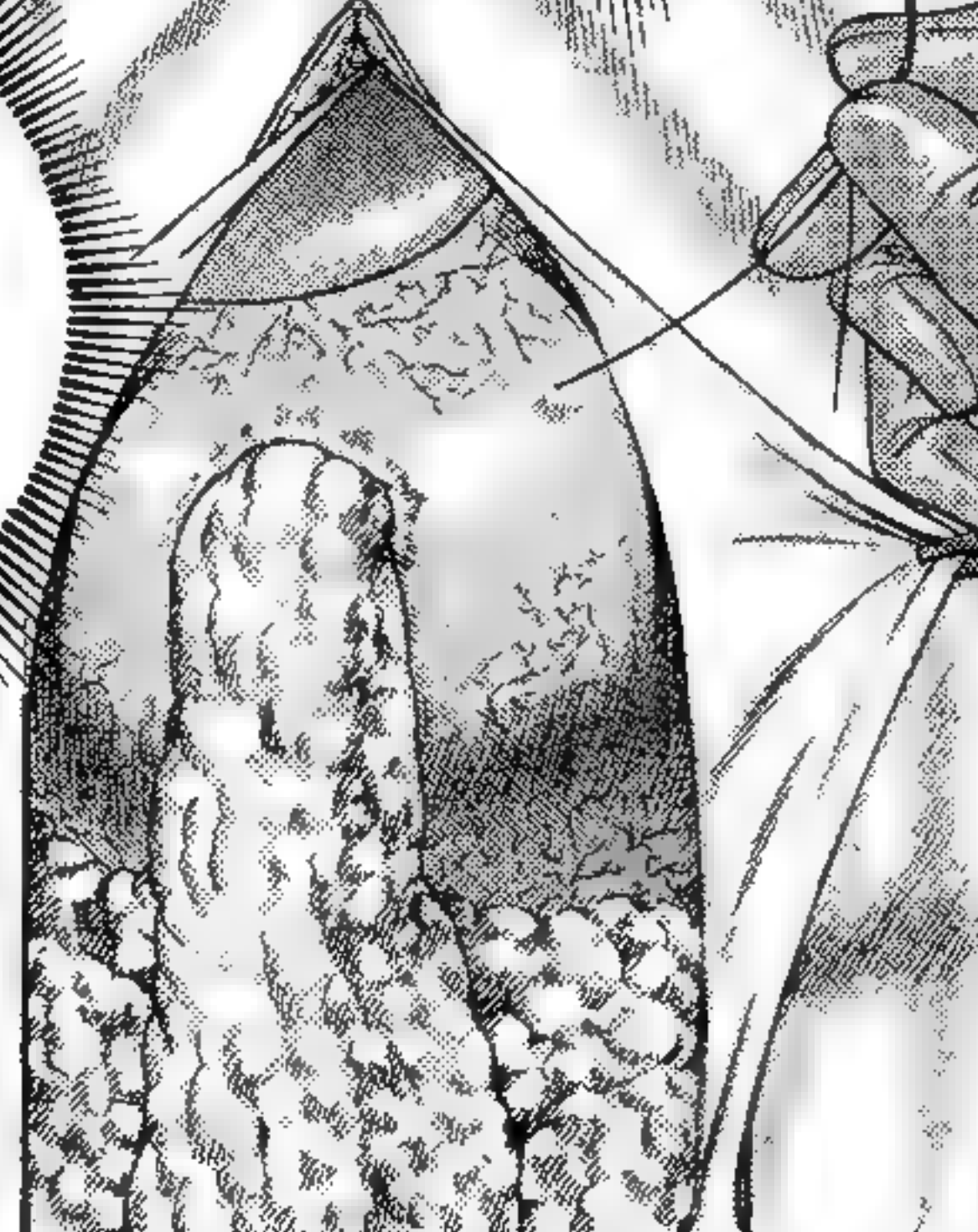
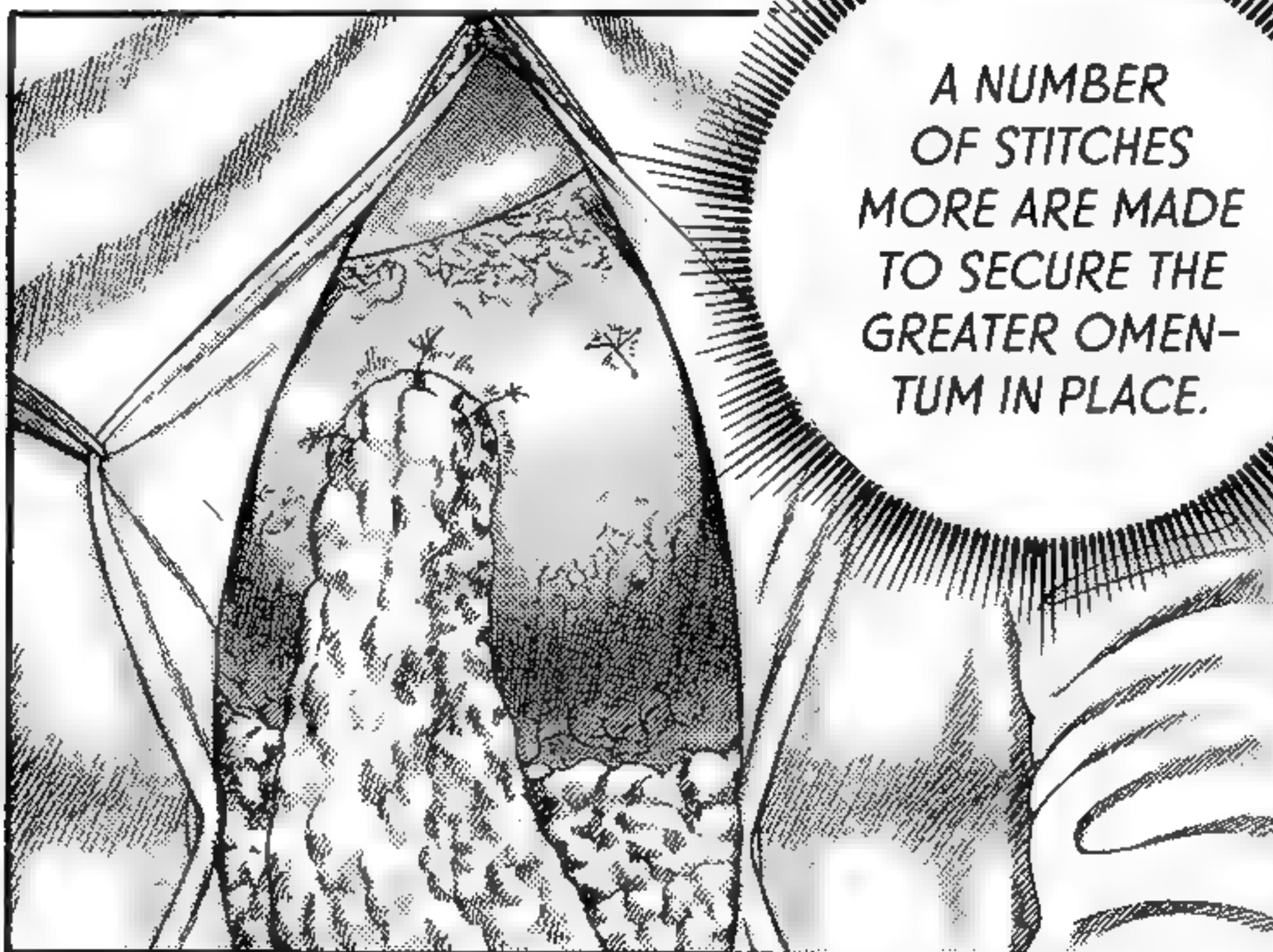


189 \*THE GREATER OMENTUM COVERS THE INTESTINES WITH FAT IN ORDER TO CONNECT THE DIGESTIVE ORGANS TO EACH OTHER AND SECURE THEM IN PLACE WHILE PROTECTING THE BELLY LIKE AN APRON.





STUFF THE TIP OF THE GREATER OMENTUM INTO THE PERFORATION USING A LARGE SUTURE NEEDLE, THEN INSERT A NEEDLE THROUGH THE STOMACH WALLS AND AFFIX IT FIRMLY...



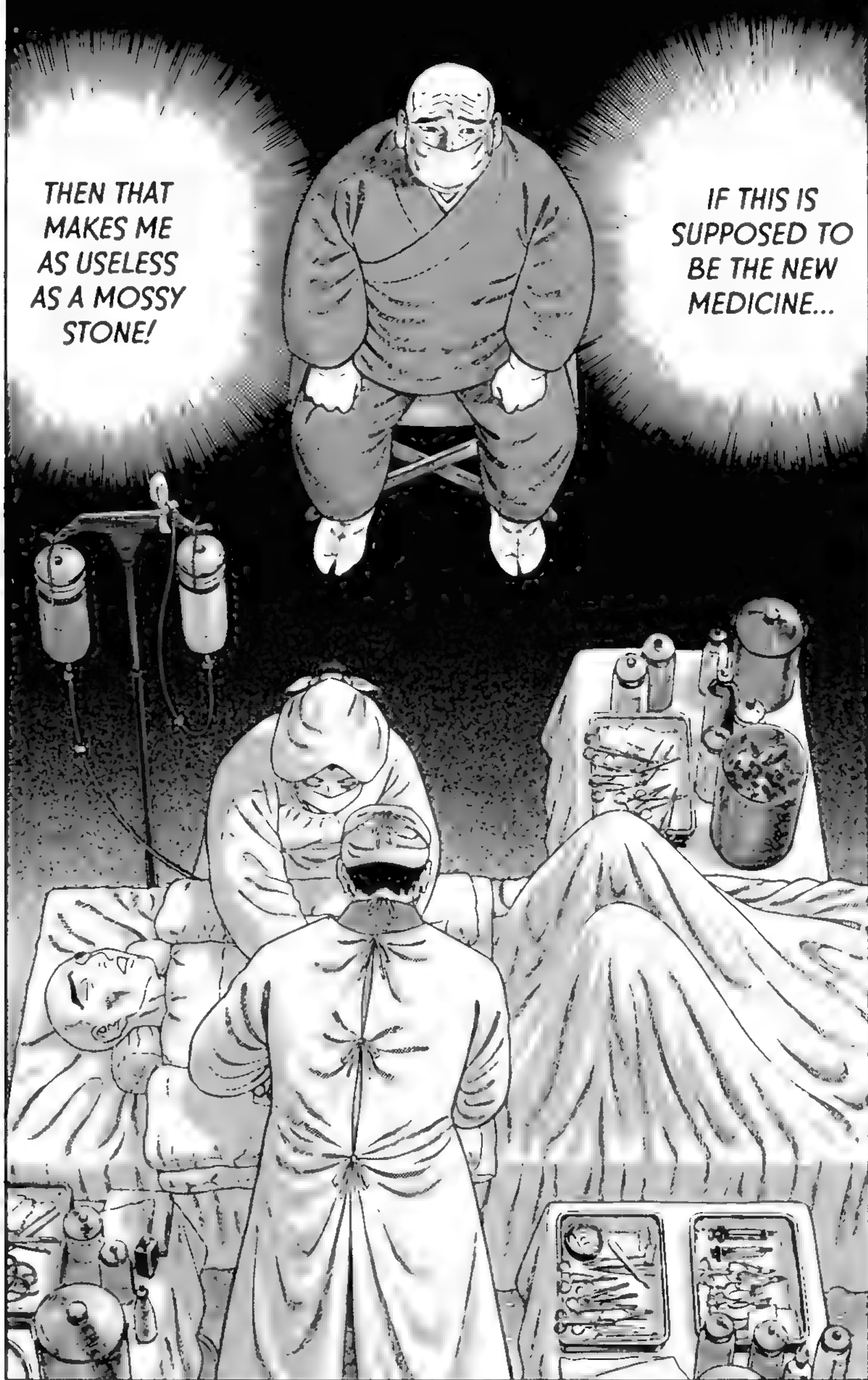






THEN THAT  
MAKES ME  
AS USELESS  
AS A MOSSY  
STONE!

IF THIS IS  
SUPPOSED TO  
BE THE NEW  
MEDICINE...







IS HE REALLY  
STILL ALIVE  
AFTER HAVING  
HIS STOMACH  
CUT OPEN?

I WON'T  
BELIEVE IT  
UNTIL I SEE  
IT WITH MY  
OWN EYES!



THE SURGERY  
IS FINISHED!

GENKO  
FUKUDA-  
SENSEI IS  
SAFE!





GENKO-  
DO NO...  
WAS REALLY  
SAVED...



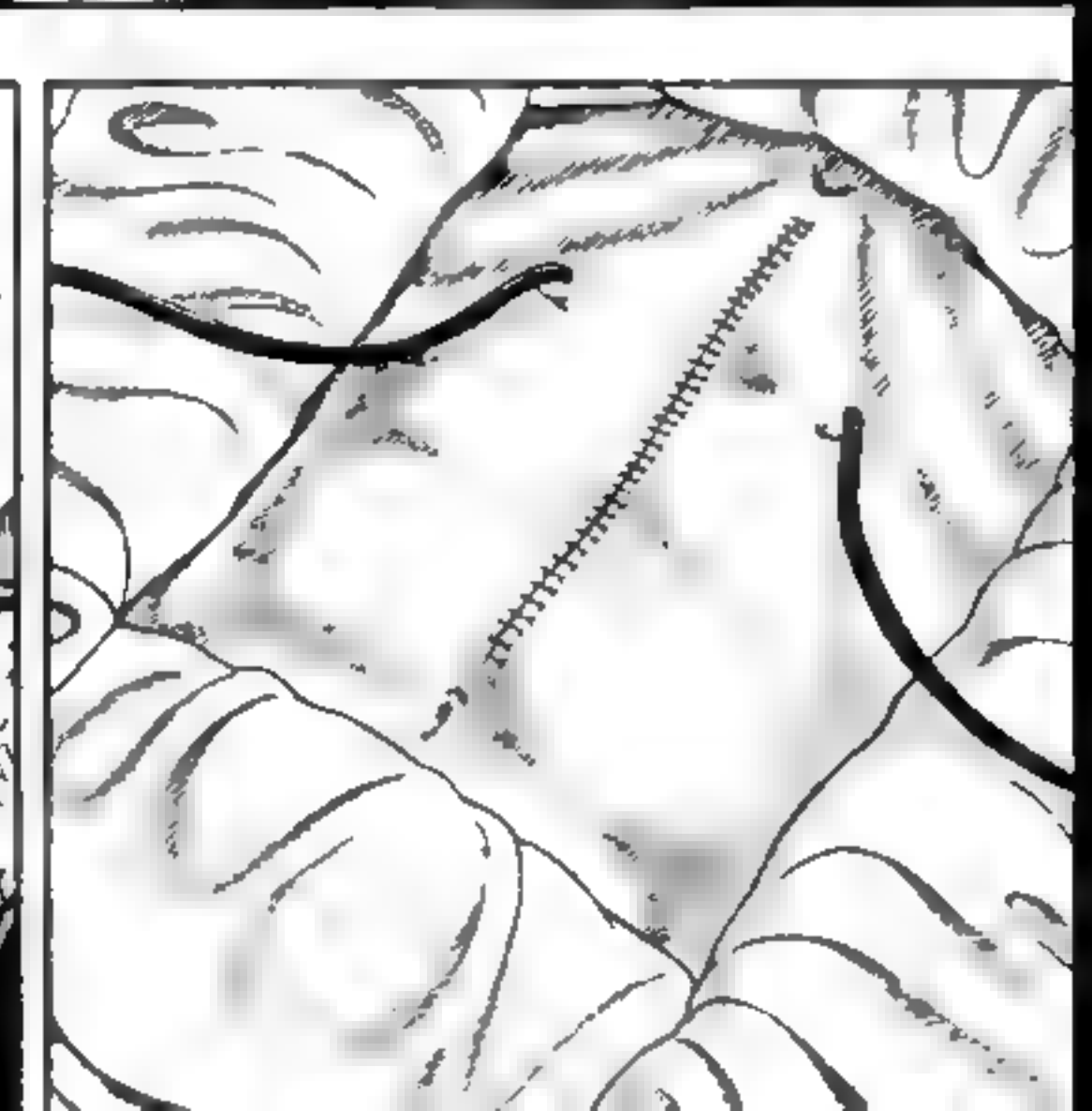
GENKO IS  
ASLEEP AND  
UNDER THE  
EFFECTS OF  
ANESTHESIA,  
BUT HIS  
PULSE IS  
STABLE!

I, GENAN  
TAKI, SAW  
THE ENTIRE  
SURGERY.



IS HE...  
REALLY STILL  
ALIVE?!

THERE  
ARE TUBES  
COMING OUT  
OF HIS BODY!







ONCE THE FLUIDS EXCRETED FROM THE TWO SURGICAL DRAINS START TO CLEAR UP, I'LL REMOVE THEM. AND IF EVERYTHING IS FINE, THE STITCHES WILL BE TAKEN OUT A WEEK TO TEN DAYS FROM NOW.

TECHNICALLY SPEAKING, WE STILL HAVE TO SEE HOW HIS CONDITION WILL BE FOR THE NEXT COUPLE OF DAYS AFTER THE SURGERY!



SORRY FOR BEING ABRUPT, BUT COULD ONE OF YOU GO TO THE MEDICAL INSTITUTE RIGHT NOW AND BRING ME THE MEDICINE CALLED PENICILLIN FROM JUNAN YAMADA-SENSEI?

YES. THIS IS TO SAVE HIS LIFE. I'D LIKE TO TAKE CARE OF HIM TO THE END.



DO... YOU INTEND ON STOPPING BY HERE EVERYDAY UNTIL THEN?!



I'LL GO AN' GET IT FER YA!

MINA-KATA-DONO!



IS HE TELLING US TO GO TO THE MEDICAL INSTITUTE FOR MEDICINE?!

WHAT A JOKE! HOW COULD ANY OF US GO GROVELLING TO THAT PLACE?!





ANY OF YOU  
GUYS TRY AND  
LAY A FINGER  
ON 'IM, AND  
YOU'LL HAVE  
TO DEAL WITH  
ME, RYOMA  
SAKAMOTO!

I DON'T KNOW  
NUTHIN' 'BOUT THE  
RIVALRY YOU GUYS  
GOT GOIN' WITH THE  
MEDICAL INSTITUTE,  
BUT I'M GONNA BE  
CONTINUIN' TO GUARD  
HIM EV'RYDAY WHEN  
HE COMES 'ERE.



WE'LL SAVE  
THE FUN IN  
YOSHIWARA...  
FER ANOTH'R  
TIME!

WELL, I  
DO GREATLY  
RESPECT YER  
COURAGE AND  
CHIVALROUS  
SPIRIT AS A  
DOCT'R.



I'M IN  
YOUR DEBT,  
SAKAMOTO-  
DONO... I'M  
SORRY TO  
INVOLVE YOU  
IN THIS.



....!

HA  
HA







SHE'S SO BEAUTIFUL I'D LIKE TO HAVE AN OJIRAN LIKE THAT JUST CAME IN MY LIFE











•FROM NOKAZE



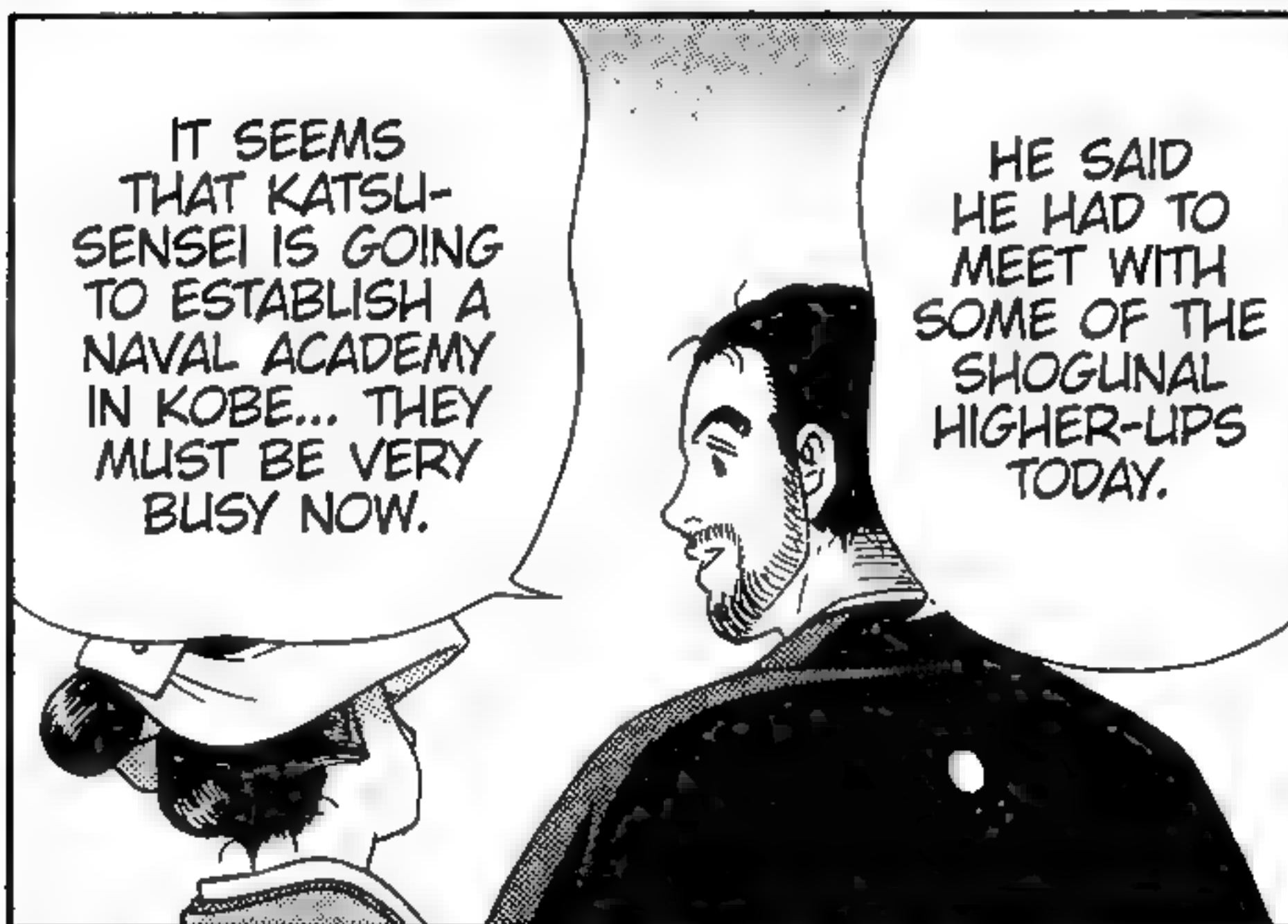




IF EVERYTHING GOES WELL, I THINK I CAN REMOVE THE DRAIN TUBES BY TOMORROW.

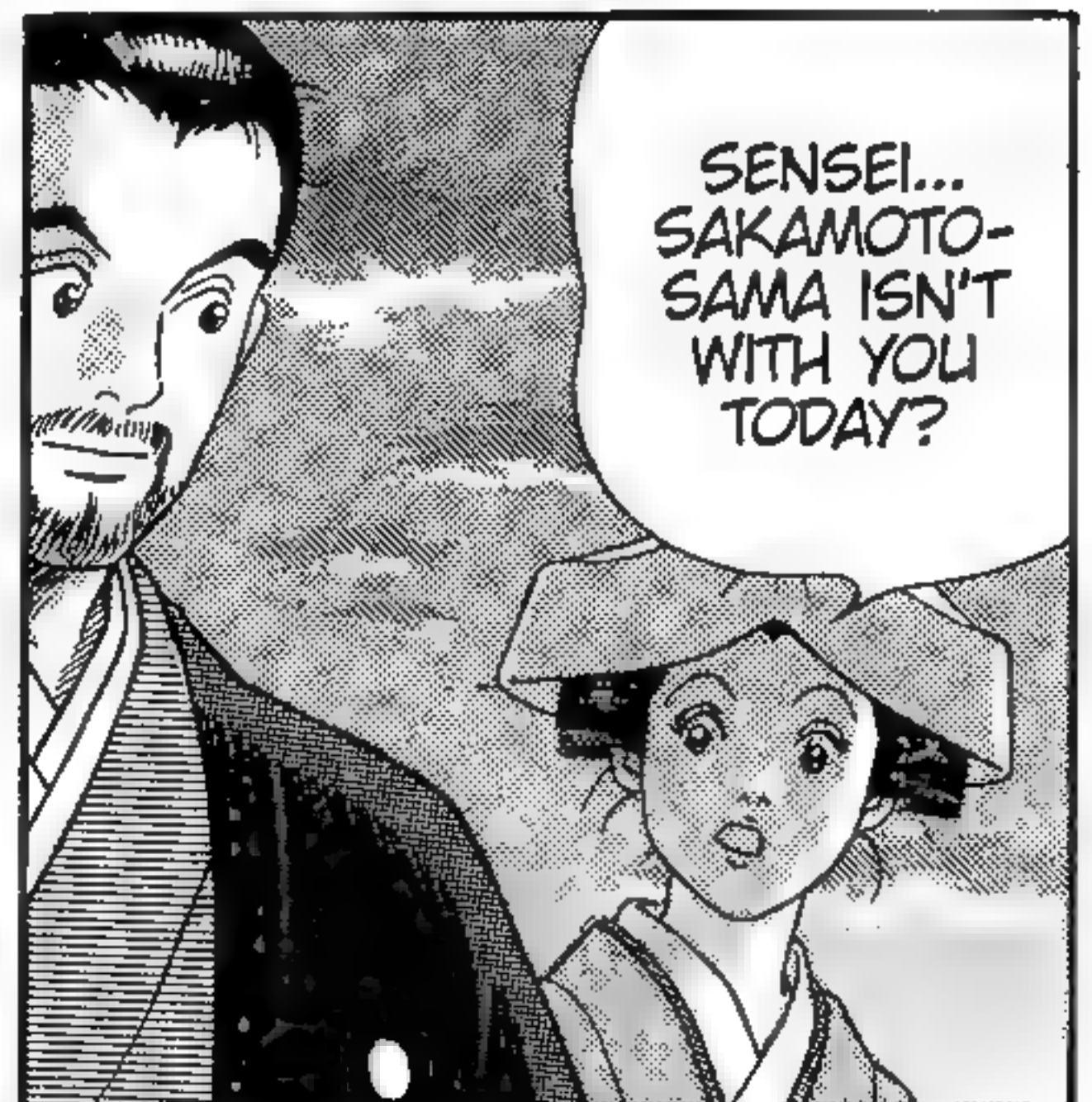


GENKO-DONO HAS BEEN DOING VERY WELL SINCE THE SURGERY... PERHAPS IT'S ALSO THANKS TO THE PENICILLIN THAT WE ADMINISTERED.



IT SEEMS THAT KATSU-SENSEI IS GOING TO ESTABLISH A NAVAL ACADEMY IN KOBE... THEY MUST BE VERY BUSY NOW.

HE SAID HE HAD TO MEET WITH SOME OF THE SHOGUNAL HIGHER-UPS TODAY.



SENSEI... SAKAMOTO-SAMA ISN'T WITH YOU TODAY?



THERE ARE PEOPLE ALL AROUND SINCE IT'S CHERRY BLOSSOM SEASON.

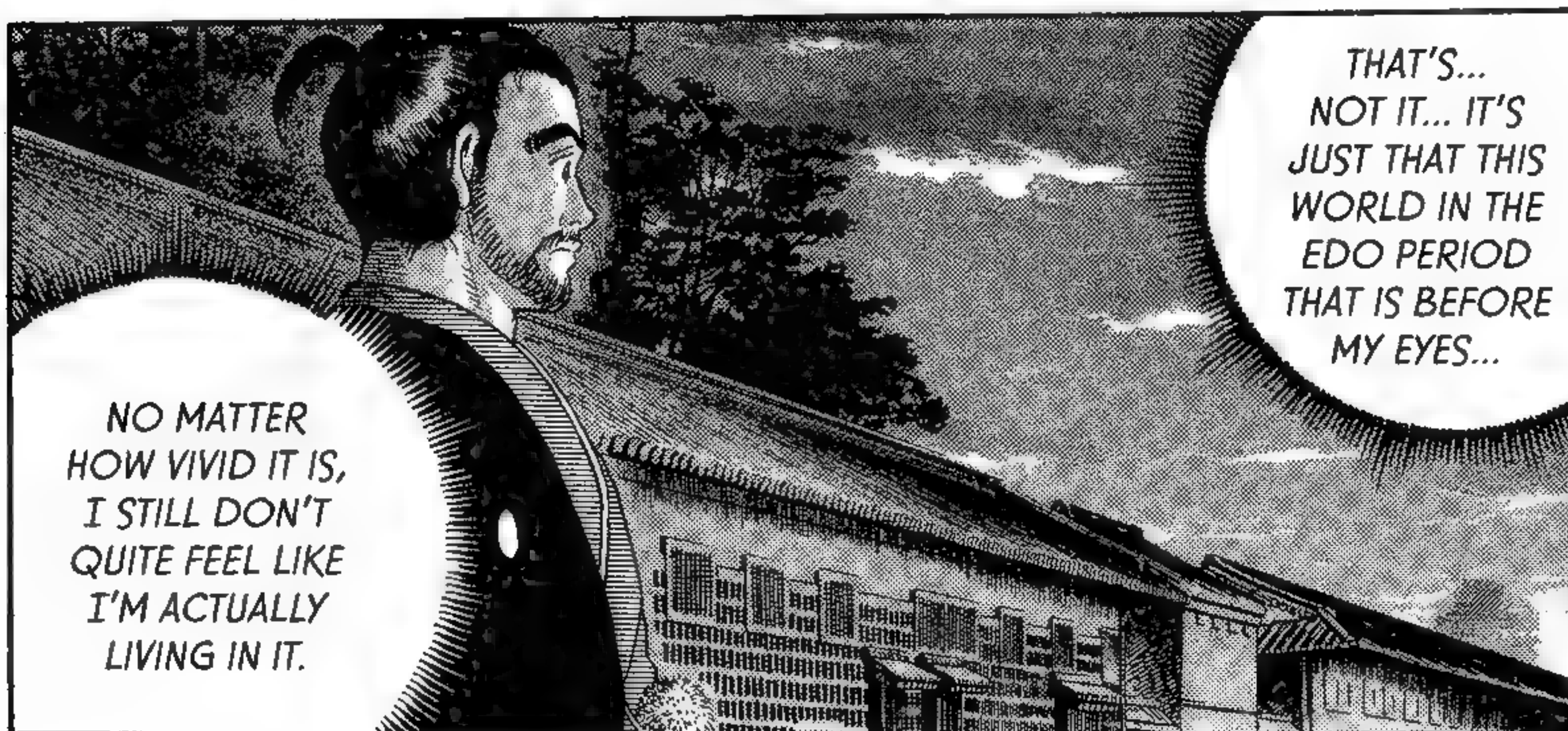
あははは  
AHHAHA

YOU'RE WORRYING TOO MUCH. IT'LL BE FINE, AS THE DAYS ARE GETTING LONGER.



THEN I SHOULD'VE ASKED MY BROTHER TO GUARD US...





























AND HER  
SMALL FRAME IS  
SHAKING EVER  
SO SLIGHTLY...

I HEAR HER  
HEART BEATING  
AS FAST AS A  
FIRE ALARM...



A GIRL WHO IS  
CURIOUS, CHEERFUL,  
AND HAS SOOTHED  
MY HEART WHEN IT  
WAS ON THE VERGE  
OF DESPAIR SO  
MANY TIMES

SAKI TACHIBANA...  
A 16-YEAR-OLD  
GIRL I MET IN  
THIS WORLD...



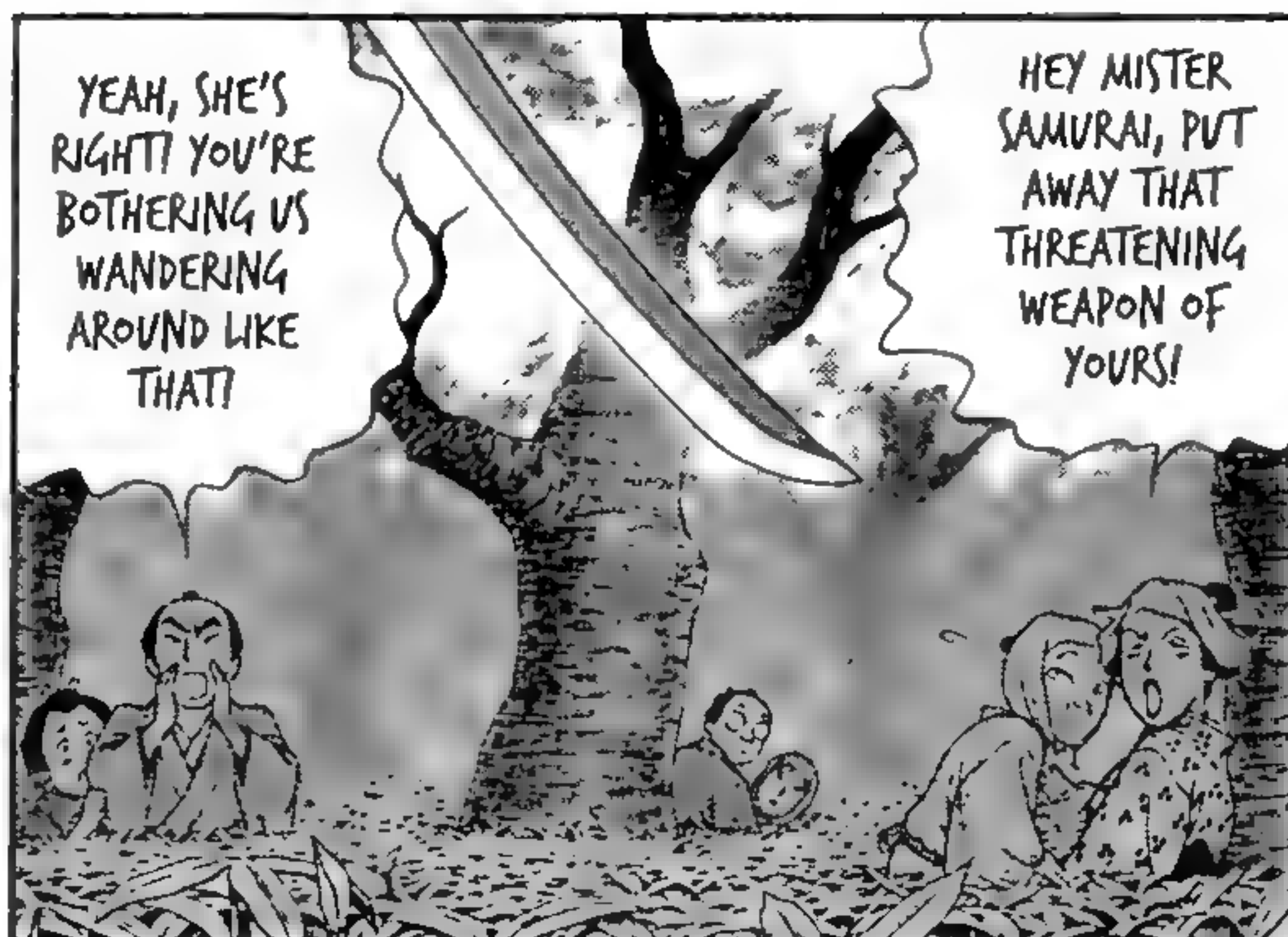
I DON'T  
WANT HER  
TO DIE...  
I WANT TO  
SAVE HER!



BUT... MY BODY  
IS PARALYZED WITH  
FEAR, AND I CAN'T  
EVEN SHAKE OFF  
HER THIN ARMS

I SHOULD  
JUST JUMP OUT  
FROM HERE AND  
LET MYSELF BE  
THE ONLY ONE  
CUT DOWN...



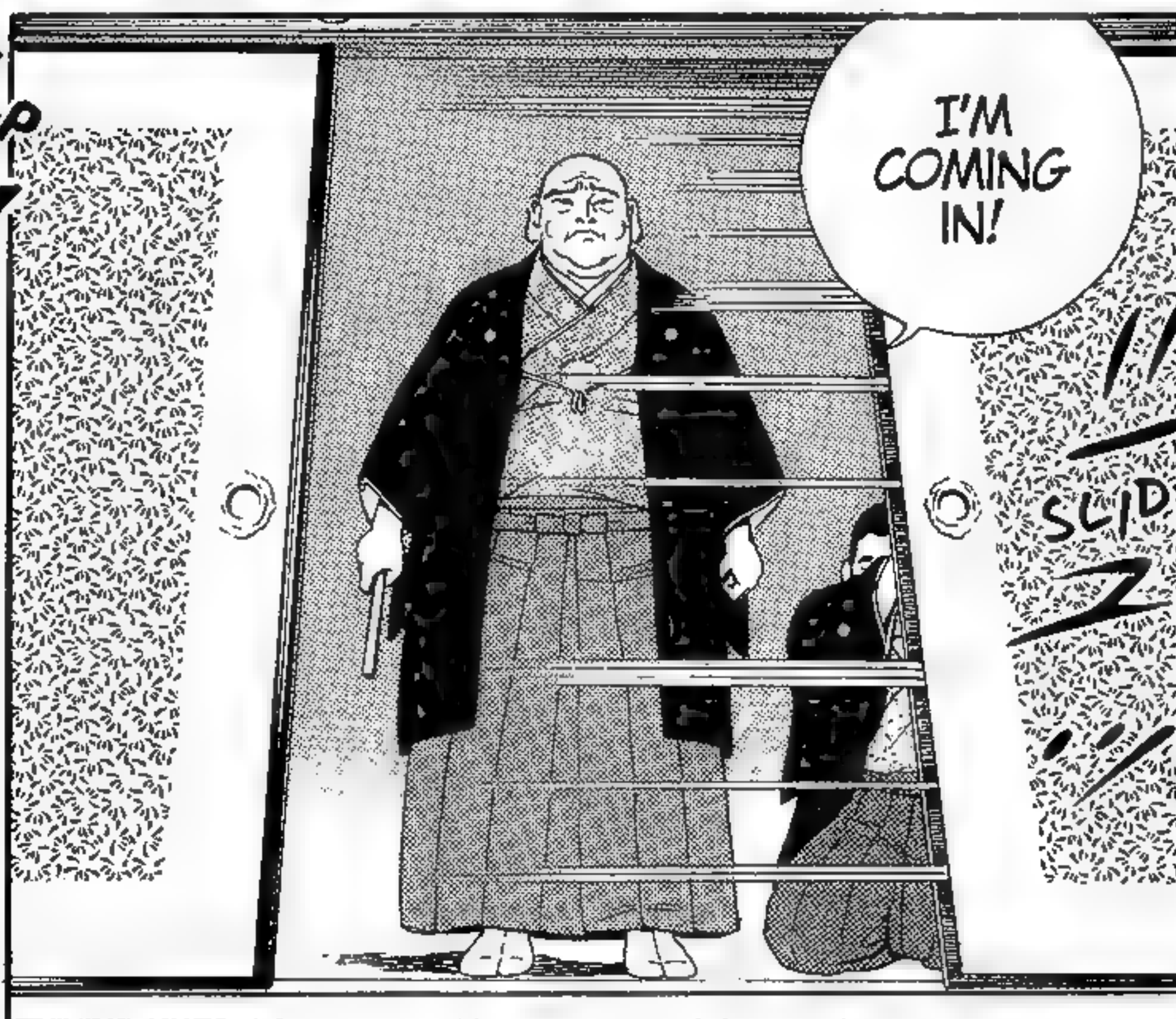
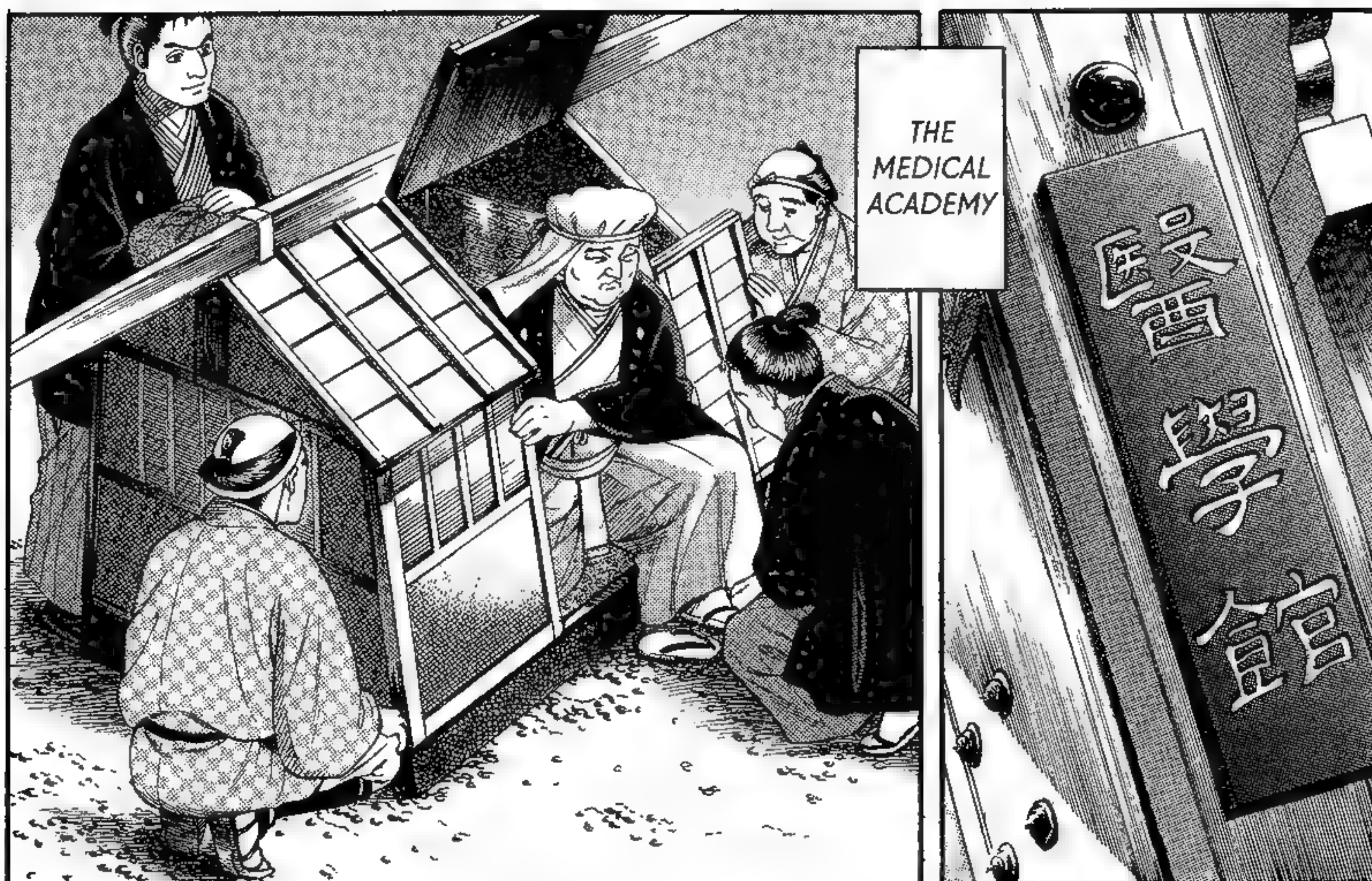




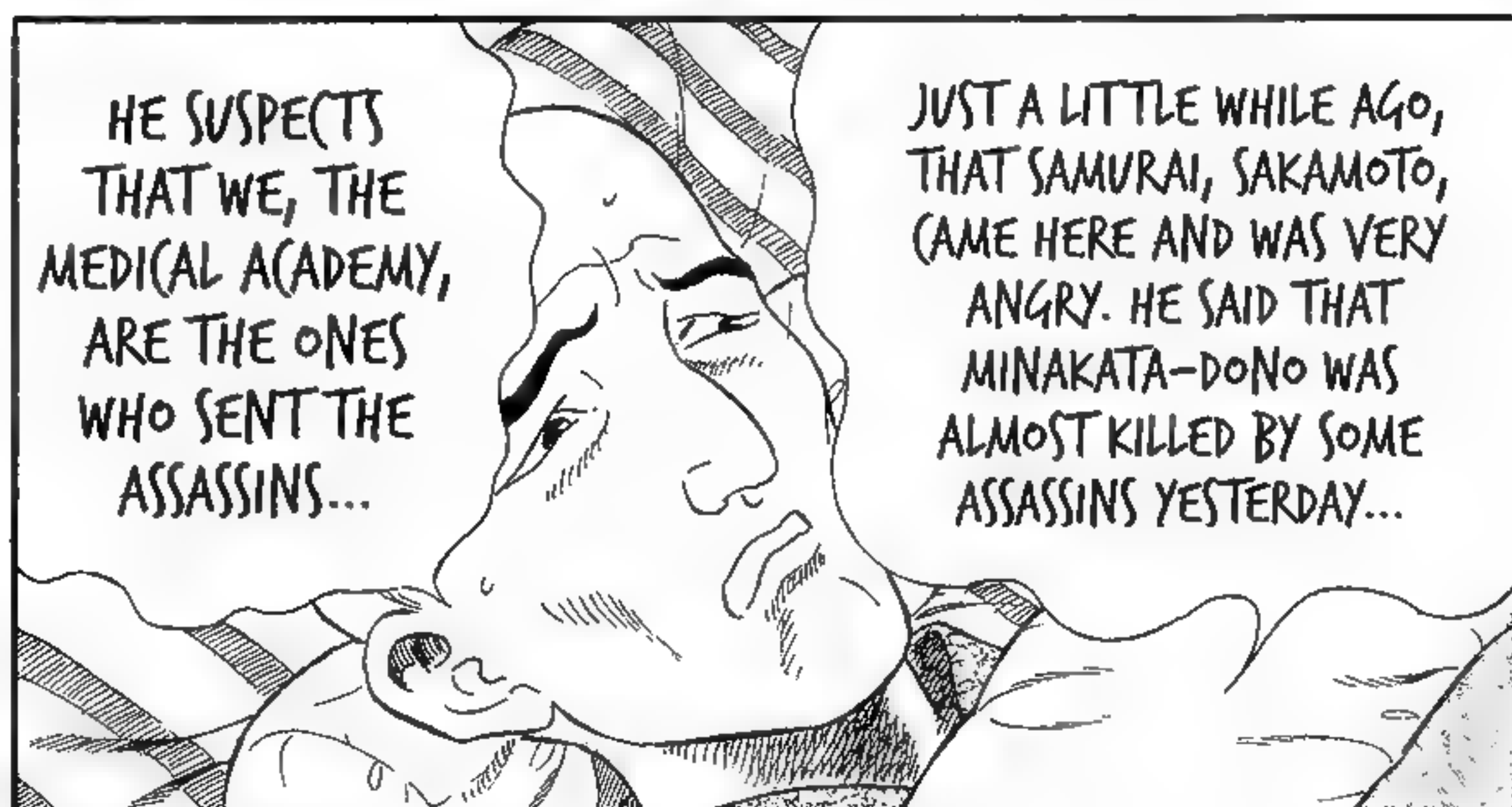


**I AM  
ALIVE  
RIGHT  
HERE  
AND  
NOW.**













WHAT CAUSE WOULD I HAVE TO TAKE THE LIFE OF ANOTHER?!

I, GENEN, HAVE ALWAYS CONDUCTED MYSELF WITH GREAT HONOR AS A DOCTOR OF THE TAKI LINEAGE!



PLEASE FORGIVE ME!



YOU FOOL!



YAMADA-KUN... ARE YOU SAYING SOMEONE RUINED THE BLUE MOLD WE'VE BEEN USING FOR PENICILLIN PRODUCTION?

THE MEDICAL INSTITUTE



AND PUT THINGS LIKE VINEGAR, SOY SALICE, AND SAKE INTO ALMOST ALL THE CONTAINERS IN OUR CULTIVATION ROOM... NEARLY EVERYTHING WAS DESTROYED.

YES. THAT IS CORRECT. THEY WAITED FOR MINA-KATA-SENSEI TO LEAVE...







...!



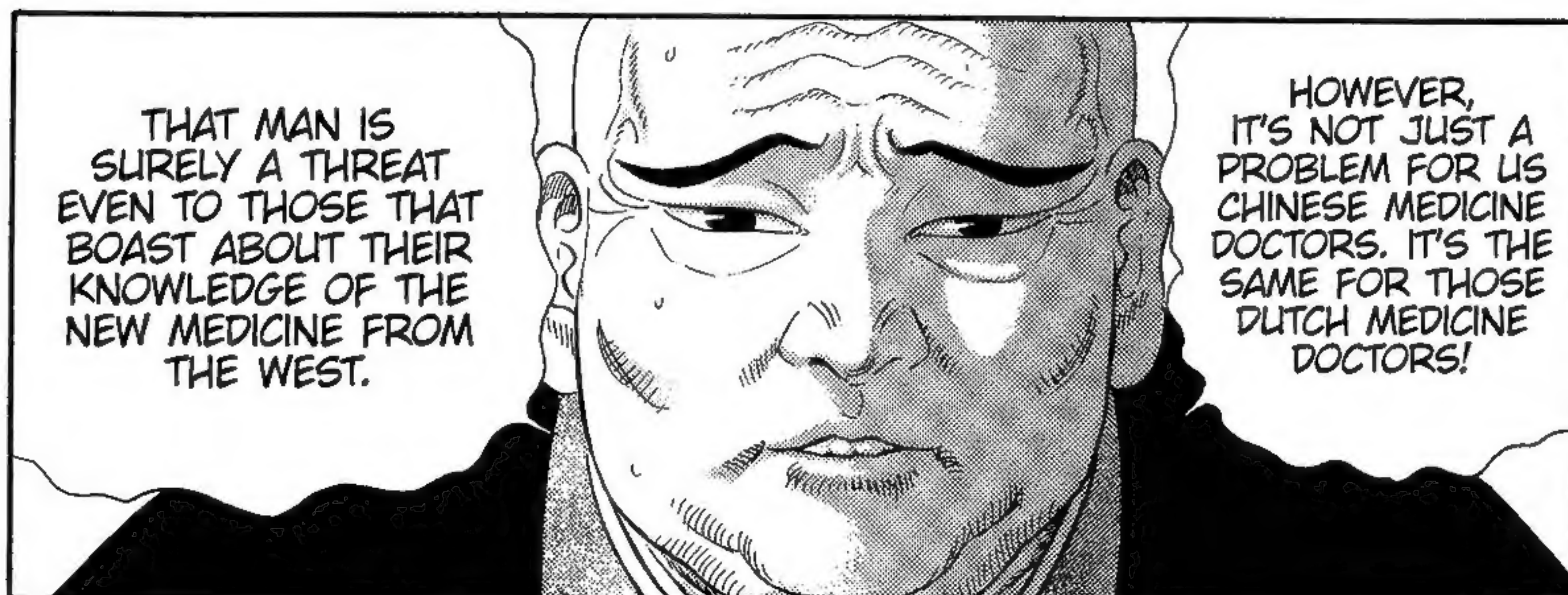
BUT I CAN ONLY ASSUME THERE IS SOMEONE INSIDE OUR INSTITUTE WHO THINKS ILL OF MINAKATA-DONO...

I DO NOT WISH TO CONSIDER IT...



IF HIS MEDICAL TECHNIQUES WERE TO SPREAD ACROSS THE WORLD, OUR MEDICINE WOULD BE TOSSED AWAY LIKE ROTTEN RICE BRAN!

TO BE COMPLETELY HONEST WITH YOU, I COULDN'T STOP TREMBLING IN FEAR WHILE WITNESSING HIS SURGICAL TECHNIQUES...



THAT MAN IS SURELY A THREAT EVEN TO THOSE THAT BOAST ABOUT THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF THE NEW MEDICINE FROM THE WEST.

HOWEVER, IT'S NOT JUST A PROBLEM FOR US CHINESE MEDICINE DOCTORS. IT'S THE SAME FOR THOSE DUTCH MEDICINE DOCTORS!



JIN MINAKATA IS A MONSTER WHO SHOULD NOT EXIST!

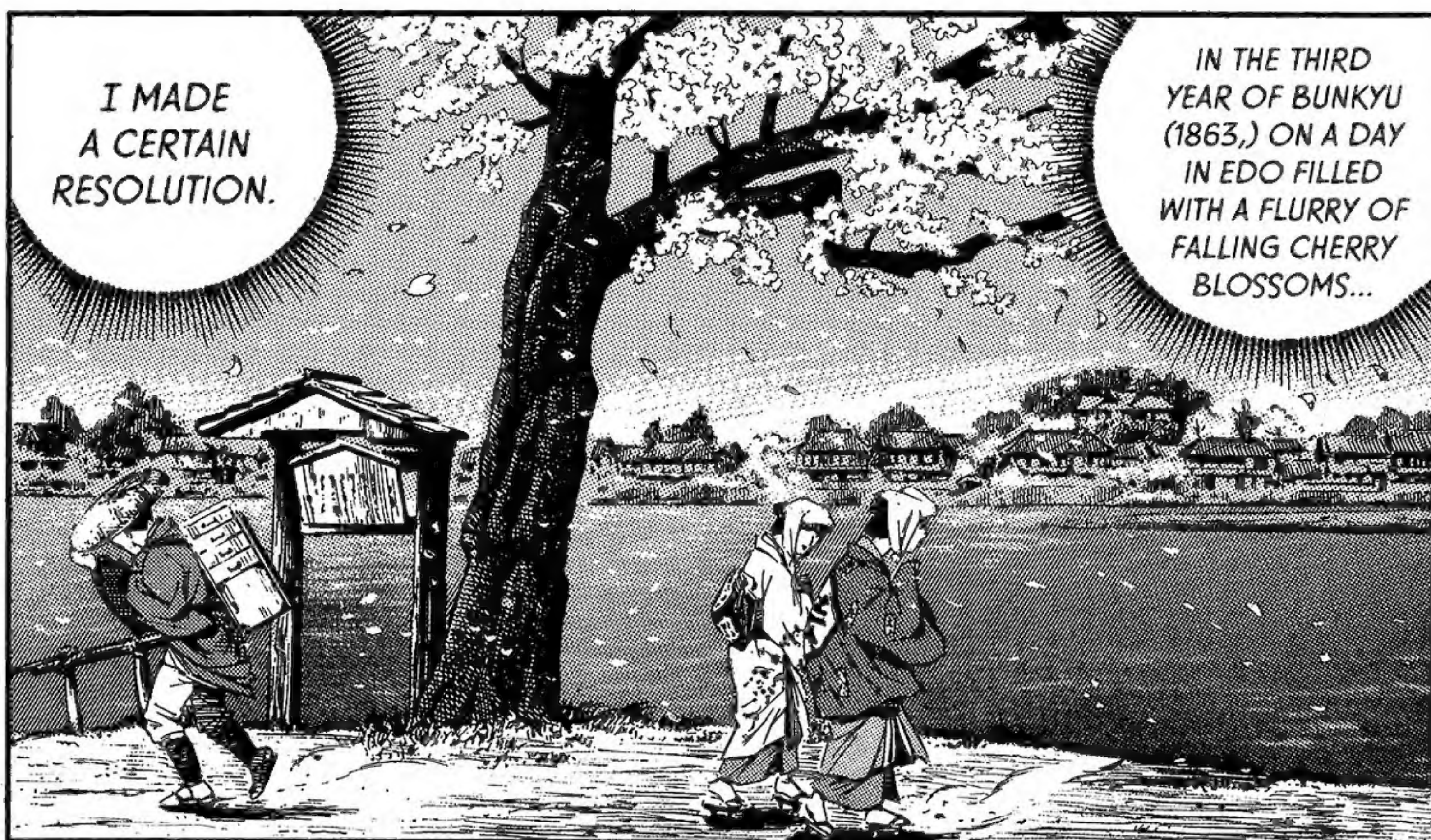
WOOSH





IT'S THE  
SPRING  
WINDS.

OH...?



I MADE  
A CERTAIN  
RESOLUTION.

IN THE THIRD  
YEAR OF BUNKYU  
(1863,) ON A DAY  
IN EDO FILLED  
WITH A FLURRY OF  
FALLING CHERRY  
BLOSSOMS...



I WILL RETURN  
TO WHERE THE  
PEOPLE WILL  
ACTUALLY  
NEED ME.

FROM THIS  
DAY FORWARD,  
I WILL NOT STAY  
WITHIN THE  
CONFINES OF  
THE MEDICAL  
INSTITUTE.



